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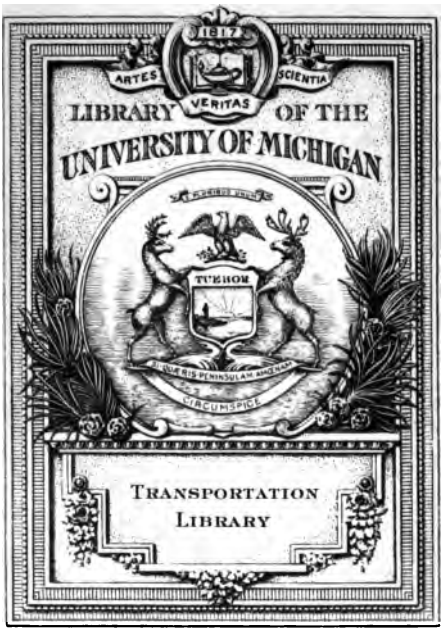
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THE WORLD

IN MINIATURE;

England, Scotland, and Ireland,

EDITED BY

W. H. PYNE.

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

CHARACTER, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, DRESS, DIVERSIONS, AND OTHER PECULIARITIES OF THE INHABITANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

IN FOUR VOLUMES;

ILLUSTRATED WITH

Eighty-Four Coloured Engravings.

VOL. I.

"The proper study of mankind is man."—POPE.

LONDON, 1827:
PRINTED FOR R. ACKERMANN, REPOSITORY OF ARTS, STRAND;
And to be had of all Booksellers.

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PREFACE.

THERE is no department of literature more arduous, perhaps, than that of composing an interesting volume upon the subject of local habits and customs, when addressed to the reading of the very people, whose manners and habits such composition describes. That which every one has daily before his eyes, appears to need

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no written description; hence he that sees the print of a butcher, baker, or brewer, knows their occupation too well to trouble himself in inquiries about their habits. It is the business then of a writer on such local objects, to endeavour to treat his subject so, that he shall create an interest in the minds of his readers, that shall lead them to own, that there is commonly nothing we know less about, than those objects by which we are constantly surrounded. Old Stowe, the historian of the metropolis, wrote a folio volume upon that which every one saw, and no one heeded, but himself. Yet, he accomplished a work, replete with interest to his compeers, and left an invaluable record of the manners, customs, and habits of his own

times, to a grateful posterity, who, but for his industry and research, would have known little of the customs of London two centuries ago.

Of the numerous works, to which these four volumes of England, Scotland, and Ireland form a continuation, the former have been descriptive of foreign countries. These would naturally excite curiosity in every one here; as all are desirous of knowing what is doing abroad, and curious to learn what are the manners, habits and customs of foreign people. Hence, the general avidity with which all the former series of the World in Miniature, from the commencement have been sought in every class, and in every part of the united

kingdom. These volumes, then, of course, may be expected to equally excite the curiosity of foreigners, to know something of the habits and customs of the British people. But this work is not addressed to strangers. It has been the particular object of the editor, to go into a species of research, that is confined to few, and to collect materials of a nature very little known; for, although our libraries abound with excellent histories of kings, princes, coronations, royal nuptials, births, christenings, funerals, and chronology, of battles, revolutions, and all that has occurred in church and state; yet, of that part of history the most instructive, and indubitably of the greatest interest, namely,

the domestic annals of the people, there are so few pages devoted to this—that scarcely any information can be derived upon the subject.

To supply the deficiencies upon this most interesting feature of history, these four volumes are particularly designed. The characters selected, are from every rank and class of society: and the descriptions are drawn from the most authentic sources; such as are scattered occasionally in the literary works of former ages, from tradition and from attentive local observation; and so assiduous has the editor been in his researches to obtain information upon every class of society to which each character belongs, and indeed upon every

individual herein depicted, however high his rank, or low their calling, that the work may be received almost as a compendium of the domestic habits and customs of the British people.

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* Lawyer—*see the article Counsellor.*

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firs: neard it. the morning, even before the aspiring chimney-sweep, or the still more lofty lark, are abroad; and he is the last heard at night, even after the industrious, fatigued with useful toil, seek repose in sleep, and the listless, still more tired with doing of nothing, are dreaming in their beds.

Wrapped in his shaggy coat, provided with a rattle, and lantern, and armed with a staff, a rough copy of the poets' grey-bearded *Time*, he stumps along the pavement, and proclaims the hour, with a loud voice, "*Past twelve o'clock, and a star-light morning*," that is, be it premised, if the foggy atmosphere allows the stars to be visible. If not, he alters the burden of his song; for a well appointed watch-

man, is a walking barometer, and thermometer, too, for he not only proclaims a cloudy, star-light, or moon-light, but also a frosty morning, when Jack Frost, on some new year's tide, hangs an icicle to the old guardian's pimpled nose.

The city nightly watch, for there this ancient corps originated, Westminster being not built upon until ages after its establishment, and the Strand a miry road, leading to St. James's palace. This corps then is of high antiquity, though, in olden times, it was composed of veteran soldiers, armed with the military weapons of the age.

Formerly, the city watch were a formidable body, any individual of which no one might affront with impunity. Of

later times, however, since the helmet has been changed for the woollen cap, and the spear for a staff, every *bon vivant* reeling home from the tavern, has thought himself a match for a watchman, and many a sturdy Bridewell boy apprentice, has proved himself an over-match for half a dozen feeble guards thus equipped.

England, as all the world will acknowledge, is the land of liberty. It is the only country, too, wherein the people, though obedient to the laws, yet being originals and humourists, below a certain class these very people have little dread of the minor branches of the police, and night constables and watchmen they hold in scorn.

With regard to this particular branch

of police however, the *night-watch*, the whole *regime*, is so constituted, that it has, from the time of King Charles the Second, the marked epoch of every species of humour, oddity, tavern going, street mobbing and licentiousness, been the everlasting subject for lampoon, witticisms, laughter and bantering. It has afforded more fuel for fun and drollery, than all other institutions together; and so it is likely to continue, as long as liberty and laughter, constitute the very being of midnight frolic.

Lord Rochester, the Duke of Buckingham, Sedly, and all the wits and mad-caps of Charles's court, had been sent to the round-house, for some frolic with a watchman. Even the merry monarch himself,

a few days, was the conversation of all classes of the people. A young Englishman, somewhat attached to the British embassy there as it was said, had been dining with a party of young Russians at a tavern, where, having taken their wine rather freely, they sallied forth, about nine o'clock, to play off a sort of English frolic. They saluted all the women who fell in their way, and then commenced shouting, and breaking of lamps. The armed patrole was soon at their heels, and they were scampering away, but being overtaken, few escaped. Well, sir, they were taken before a magistrate, convicted of the fact, and consigned over to the knout master, to undergo the summary punishment of the knout. I'faith, it makes one's back

wince to think of it. The delinquents were taken to a spacious chamber, and the whole of them, twelve or fourteen, were tremblingly alive, to what they should undergo—for the knouting is a tremendous punishment. The knout master entered, escorted by two guards—he was a ferocious fellow, when stepping a few paces forth, he seized one of the rioters by the hair, and bending him to the floor upon his face, he gave him a dozen strokes of his knout. So he proceeded with another and another, until about half the number had felt the power of his relentless weapon. It now pleased the executioner to demand the Englishman to come forward, who did not obey

—he commanded him again, and not being obeyed, he sprang forward to seize him by the hair—when the young Englishman, sir, who was a fine grown man, planted such a tremendous strait forward blow, on his *os frontis*, just between his eyes, that it sent him backwards, sir—he was stunned—completely astonished, when scrambling on his hands and knees, and looking up at the Englishman, he took up his instrument of punishment, and bidding the guards remain, descended to relate the affair to the magistrate.

Alas! we are all ruined—undone—we shall be hanged, exclaimed his companions in trouble. Your rashness will be punished with death. I am concerned

for you, returned the Englishman, but as for myself, I would rather die, than be dragged by the hair by that miscreant.

After waiting on thorns for nearly an hour, the party were summoned to appear before a superior officer of the police, who represented to the Englishman the enormity of his offence, and the consequent punishment that awaited the crime of thus violently resisting an officer of police in the discharge of his duty.

The Englishman replied with manly firmness, but with great respect, that he had only perpetrated that offence which in his own country was considered a trifling misdemeanour—and whatever punishment might be awarded, he must of necessity submit to without murmuring.

His only anxiety now, was for the fate of those gentlemen his fellow prisoners, as he was most culpable for leading them to this breach of the peace.

This generous, manly declaration was admired by the magistrate and the court. The magistrate then said, "Sir, I have a great respect for your people—and as you generously acknowledge yourself the ring-leader in this riot, I shall acquit you for the sake of your country—and, shall liberate these gentlemen for your own sake. But take this admonition with you, young gentleman, these pranks may be played off with impunity in London, but they will not do with the good people of Petersburg."

The earliest account of the establish-

ment of the City-watch occurs under the year 1263, in the reign of Henry III., whose son Prince Edward, having plundered the Temple, and they having suffered aggressions at the hands of an arbitrary Sovereign, they set up a guard for the city, who were on duty night and day. This was formed of a patrole of horse and foot.

In these turbulent days, however, this new corps exposed the citizens to many evils; and amongst others, a desperate gang of thieves, pretended to be a part of this foot guard, and entering the houses of merchants and others by night, *ex officio*, under the plea of searching for strangers, committed numerous robberies. To prevent a recurrence of these evils, a regularly

equitated watch was appointed for each ward.

This corps increased, and continued until the year 1539, when King Henry VIII., considering so large a body as then mustered on the vigils of St. Peter and John the Baptist, and splendidly clad, too great an expence, the watch was new modelled.

To give some idea of the magnificence of this guard at this period, two thousand armed horse and foot composed the marching watch, exclusive of the standing watch.

King Henry approving of this corps, however, in the first year of his reign, and declaring it to be an "auncient and commendable custome of this cittie, lest it

should decaye, through neglect or covetousnesse, came privately disguised in one of his guards coates into Cheap, on Midsommer Even, and seeing it at that time performed to his content, to countenance it, and make it more glorious by the presence of his person, came after, on St. Peters Even, with Queen Catherine, attended by a noble traine, riding in royall state to the Kings-head in Cheap (Cheapside), there to behold the same, and after, anno. 15 of his reigne, Christerne King of Denmarke, with his Queene, being then in England, was conducted thro' the cittie to the Kings-Heade, there alsoe to see the same.*

That the people loved these pageantries is evident, for in the second year of King

Edward the Fifth, Sir Thomas Gresham, then being Lord Mayor of London, to gratify the young king, who was attached to these splendid shows, he revived, for that year only, the City-watch, in all its accustomed splendour.

To perpetuate the memory of the rejoicings in the city on these memorable occasions a contemporary poet wrote a poem entitled "London Artillery," the author's name John Nicolls, which, having become one of the very rare black letter poems, we shall transcribe, as given by Brand in his popular Antiquities.

It must be kept in mind that this scarce poem describes the two nights only, and the last with which the ancient citizens were gratified, with this grand pageant at

the expense of the munificent Sir Thomas Gresham.

"That once again they seek and imitate
Their ancestors, in kindling *those faire lights*
Which did illustrate these two famous nights.
When drums and trumpets sounds, which do delight
A chearful heart, waking the drowsy night,
Did fright the wandring Moone, who, from her spheare,
Beholding Earth beneath lookt pale with feare,
To see the aire appearing all on flame
Kindled by thy bon-fires, and from the same,
A thousand sparkes dispersst throughout the skie,
Which like to wandering starres about did flie;
Whose holesome heate, purging the aire, consums
For Earthe's unwholesome vapours, fogges and fumes,

The wakeful shepherd by his flocke in field,
With wonder at that time farre off beheld
The wanton shine of thy triumphant fiers
Playing upon the tops of thy tall spiers:
Thy goodly buildings that till then did hide
Their rich array, *opened their windowes wide*
Where kings, great peers, and many a noble
dame,
Whose bright, pearle-glittering robes, did
mocke the flame
Of the nights' burning lights, *did sit to see*
How *every senator*, in his degree
Adorn'd with shining gold and *purple weeds*
And stately mounted on rich-trapped steeds,
Their guard attending, through the streets did
ride,
Before their foot-bands, graced with glittering
pride
Of rich gilt armes, whose glory did present
A sunshine to the eye, as if he ment,
Amongst the cresset lights shot up on hie,
To chase darke night for ever from the skie:
While in the streets the sticklers to and fro,
To keepe decorum, still did come and go;

Where tables set, were plentifully spread,
And at each doore neighbor with neighbor fed,
Where modest Mirth, attendant at the feast
With Plentye, gave content to every guest,
Where true good will crown'd cups of fruitful wine,
And neighbours in true love did fast combine,
Where the lawes pick-purse, strife 'twixt friend and friend,
By reconcilement happily tooke end.
A happy time, when men knew how to use
The gifts of blessed peace, yet not abuse
Their quiet rest with rust of ease, so farre
As to forget all discipline of warre."

Of late this branch of police has received considerable improvement, and the streets of this great metropolis, are better lighted, and rendered more safe for passengers during the night, than at any former period of our history.

The constable of the night, whose duty it is to preside at the watch-house all night, is annually chosen from among the respectable tradesmen in each parish. His office is magisterial, as all persons who have committed assaults upon passengers, or otherwise broken the peace, being given in charge to the watchmen, are examined by him, and who, if proved by the evidence of the persons offended, to have so broken the peace, they must procure bail from some respectable housekeeper of the parish; or in default thereof, be locked up in a strong room, and taken before a magistrate of the police, the next morning, and dealt with according to law.

To substantiate what is herein stated of

the night watch, we have but to refer to our immortal Bard, whose *Dogberry* has furnished forth, a *cognomen* for the fraternity of night constables, and petty magistrates, even down to the present period; and the diurnal papers, in the police reports, yet record the national humours of midnight frolics, as in days of yore.

LORD MAYOR.

The title of Mayor was first granted to the chief magistrate of the City of London in the year 1207. Previously to this period, he was designated Bailiff of London, which title was changed to that of Mayor in honour of Henry Fitz-Alwyn, who had held the office of chief magistrate in succession for nineteen years, namely

LORD MAYOR.

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from the year 1189, and who had the honour to continue in the same high office, successive years until 1222.

It is not ascertained at what period the title of Lord Mayor was first used, though some historians are of opinion, that Fitz-Alwyn was thus addressed.

During the period that the Romans possessed this city, the chief magistrate was called the Prefect of London. In the Saxon times, he had the title of Portreve, that is custos-or guardian, and sometimes, Custos of London; but after the Norman conquest, he was called Balivio, from the old French word *Bailler*, *tradere*, *committere*, that is *commissarius*, one having commission to govern others. There were occasionally two bailiffs elected for

as chief governors of this city, until the time of Richard I. who, according to another authority, changed the title to that of Mayor, in the first year of Fitz-Alwyn's government, 1189, which title, also derived from the French, has continued to the present time.

As to the honour and grandeur of this magistrate, says a writer of former times, the Lord Mayor is no where to be parallelled by the chief magistrate of any other corporation, Sir Henry Fitz-Alwyn being of a noble family; whence his successors were honoured with the title of *Lord Mayor*, or from the chief citizens being heretofore called *Barons*.

In the year 1466, Sir John Young and in the year 1487, Sir William Horn, were

knighted in the field. In 1462, Sir Thomas Cook, and in 1476, Sir Ralph Joceline, Mayors, were created knights of the bath. In 1412, Sir Geoffrey Fielding, and in 1335, Sir John Allen, Lord Mayors, were privy counsellors; and Sir Thomas Allen, in 1659, Sir Richard Brown, 1660, Sir John Robinson in 1662, and Sir Robert Viner, in 1674, were knights and baronets. It was the latter loyal and much respected chief magistrate of London, who entertained the king and his courtiers at Grocers' Hall; and of whom it is related, that being in his cups, and attending his sovereign to his carriage, he familiarly took his royal guest by the hand, and invited friend Charles to return and take 'tother bottle; to which the social mo-

narch consented, humming as he went, the burden of an old song, "*a drunkard's as great as a king.*" The colossal statue of Charles II. which was placed on a lofty base in the centre of Stock's market, was erected at the expence of this renowned Lord Mayor.

"John, king of France, then prisoner in England, David, king of Scotland, also a prisoner of war, and the king of Cyprus, being then on a visit to this country, Henry Picard, formerly Lord Mayor of London, entertained the king of England, Edward III. and these three kings at a sumptuous feast, together with the heroic prince of Wales, and most of the nobility, an honour perhaps, so as saith an historian, which never yet fell to the lot of any

other private subject in the whole world. This entertainment was given by Henry Picard anno 1366, seven years after he had passed the civic chair."

A former writer speaking of the ancient dignity of this office, observes:—"Here I might also instance the learning of Sir John Allen, Alderman Fabian, &c. The loyalty of Sir William Walworth, Sir Richard Lee, &c. The extraordinary charity of Sir William Eastfield, Sir Nicholas Wotton, Sir Robert Large, Sir Thomas White, Sir John Poultenev, Sir John Hinde, Sir Richard Whittington, Sir Stephen Jennings, &c. But what I have said may suffice to show the extraordinary worth and grandeur of the governors of this *Augusta*."

If the person elected Lord Mayor, declines the office, he is liable to be fined at the discretion of the corporation, unless he is indisposed by some impediment, as was alleged in the case of Sir Thomas Cook, at Michaelmas 1705.

In the year 1368, Walter Berneye, having been elected chief magistrate of this city, and not appearing on the feast of St. Simon and Jude, to take upon him the same office; Simon de Mordon was elected Mayor, and on the day following, he was sworn in before the barons of the exchequer.

Hereupon, a warrant of distress was issued, to levy one hundred marks on the effects of the said Walter Berneye, for the use of the said Simon de Mordon, the

Mayor, pursuant to an order of the city, made in the year 1445.

The privileges granted under the different reigns to the chief magistrate of London, have been many, and on some occasions of the highest importance; amongst others, it was held, that this great magistrate, upon the death of the sovereign, was by virtue of his office, the prime person of England, and, therefore, when King James of Scotland was invited to come and take the crown of England on the demise of Queen Elizabeth, anno 1602, Robert Lee, then Lord Mayor of London, subscribed in the first place, before all the great officers of the crown, and all the nobility.

The Lord Mayor, on the day of the

king's coronation, claims the privilege of acting as chief butler, and bears the king's cup, amongst the highest nobles of the realm, who serve on that solemnity in other offices.

His authority was granted to extend, not only over the civil government of the city, and part of the suburbs, but also on the river Thames, eastward as far as Yendale or Yenleet, and the mouth of the river Medway, and westward, as far as Colny Ditch, above Staines bridge, with the power to punish and correct all that shall annoy the stream, banks, or fish, and to keep courts in the counties adjacent to the Thames, for conservation of the river, and punishment of offenders.

For the support of his state, his house-

hold establishment was very honourable; he was granted four officers to wait on him, reputed esquires *ex officio*, namely, the sword-bearer, the common hunt, who kept a gallant kennel of hounds for the Lord Mayor's recreation abroad, the common cryer, and the water bailiff. Also, three sergeant carvers, three sargeants of the chambers, a sargeant of the channel, four yeomen of the water side, one under water bailiff, two yeomen of the chamber, three meal weighers, two yeomen of the wood-wharf, most of whom were allowed their servants and liveries for themselves.

When he went abroad, his state and magnificence were no less honourable, which was usually on horseback, with rich caparison, himself always in long robes, sometimes of fine scarlet cloth, richly

furred, sometimes purple, and sometimes puce, and over his robes, a hood of black velvet. as an ancient badge of a baron of the realm, with a great chain of gold about the neck, or a collar of S. S, with a great rich jewel pendant therefrom, with many officers walking before, and on all sides.

His table, and also the table of the sheriffs, in former days, were such, that they were not only open all the year to all comers, strangers and others, that were of any quality or distinction, but so well furnished, that they were always fitting to receive the greatest subject of England, or of any other potentate.

It was in the year 1215, that the citizens of London obtained from king John, the valuable privilege of chusing their chief

magistrate, which was subsequently confirmed by several other royal grants; the Mayors were elected by the court of aldermen, and a number of the common council, summoned by them, out of their respective wards, but the number thus summoned being occasionally varied at the discretion of the aldermen, frequently produced a clamour amongst the citizens; to remove which inconvenience, an act was passed in the common council in the year 1476, which established the custom of election by the liverymen of the several companies, by whom, by a majority of hands, the Lord Mayor, to the present time, is annually chosen on Michaelmas day, in Guildhall.

Soon after the new lord mayor, accom-

panied by the recorder and several of the aldermen, is presented to the lord chancellor as his majesty's representative, for the royal approbation; which being obtained, he is sworn into the office of Mayor, at Guildhall, on the 8th of November, and the next day, before the barons of the exchequer at Westminster.

On the morning of the 9th of November, being the day on which he enters upon his office, the aldermen and sheriffs repair to the Mansion house, the residence of the Lord Mayor, from whence they attend him to Guildhall in a procession formed by coaches, which at noon proceed to the Three Crane Stairs, where the lord mayor, aldermen, recorder and sheriffs, go on board the city barge, at-

tended by the several city companies, in their formalities, and magnificent barges, superbly adorned with a profusion of flags streamers and pendants; and thence proceed to Westminster, forming, perhaps, the most striking spectacle amongst the few pageants which the customs of modern times yet retain.

When the ceremony is ended at Westminster, the splendid fleet returns to Blackfriars bridge, from whence the livery of many of the companies, in their respective costume, preceded by silken flags, bearing the arms and devices of their various fraternities, with bands of music, march to their respective halls—formerly, they halted at their respective stands, where, with the ladies of their families,

they waited to see the Lord Mayor's procession pass.

The Lord Mayor being at length landed at Blackfriars, he is preceded by the Artillery company, which is followed by the livery of the hall of which he is a member. After them follow several other companies, with kettle-drums, trumpets, men on horseback and foot, clad in complete suits of ancient armour, with a number of men, called the bachelors corps, grotesquely clad; a herald at arms on a white horse, in his emblazoned tabart, the Lord Mayor's footmen, followed by the chief magistrate, in the state coach; and after a long train of other carriages, amongst which are the splendid chariots of the sheriffs, they thus proceed to Guild-

hall, where a magnificent feast and ball ends the festivities of the day.

In remote times the same person frequently was re-elected to the chief magistracy of the City of London. Henry Fitz-Alwyn, filled the office of Mayor twenty-four years almost in succession.

From anno 1214, Robert Serle was Mayor seven times.

From 1223 to 1238, Richard Renger, and Hammond Chichely, were each elected five times.

Anno 1231, and various other years, Richard Bokerell filled the civic chair seven times.

Anno 1275, and afterwards, George Rokeby was Mayor seven times, and several others more than once.

In the year 1529, an order passed, to prohibit any one filling the office a second time; which, however, was not strictly observed, for Sir William Ralph Warren was chosen in 1536, and again in 1543, and Sir Thomas Pilkington in 1688, 1689, &c.

Anno 1285, and subsequently, there were several custos's put in by Edward I. instead of Mayors. "The citizens," says an anonymous author, "about a century ago, being thus early injured and deprived of their just rights, of which we have had some more instances in later times," alluding, no doubt, to the period of the troubles during the civil wars, as may be inferred from what follows.

"After the year 1390," proceeds the

same author, "the Mayors were commonly knighted, unless during the troubles and usurpation, when there was no king in our Israel."

It is a remarkable circumstance in the history of this great and ancient metropolis, that though the chief magistrate has usually been a person somewhat advanced in years, and considering also, that they have ever been exposed to the old English custom of banquetting and good cheer, even to a proverb, that so very few have died during their mayoralty. For from the year 1189, when Henry Fitz-Alwyn died of old age, no succeeding Mayor deceased during his mayoralty until the year 1216, when the seat became vacant by the death of Jacob Alderman; nor

after that until William Bowyer, who died in his mayoralty, in the year 1513, which was 297 years from the death of Jacob Alderman.

Sir Cuthbert Buck, in 1593, and Sir Thomas Skinner, three years after, are the next instances; from which period no Lord Major died during his office, until the year 1740, which was 144 years from the death of Sir Thomas Skinner, when Humphrey Parsons died in his mayoralty, but this was in the second year of his office; and since him have died Sir Robert Godschall, Sir Samuel Penant, Thomas Winterbottom, and Edward Ironside; hence, from the first institution of the office in 1189 to 1740, a period of 551 years, there died only five

Lord Mayors during their mayoralty—yet so uncertain is the data for human calculation of such events, that from 1740 to 1753, only fifteen years, the same number died, namely five Lord Mayors, in the year of their mayoralty.

ALDERMAN.

The Aldermen of the city of London are the subordinate governors of their respective wards, under the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor, and hold their offices during life. The person elected must be returned by the Lord Mayor, or other returning officer in his stead, duly qualified to hold a court of wardmote, to the

ALDERMAN.

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court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, by whom the person so returned must be admitted, and sworn into the office of Alderman before he can act. If refusing to serve the office when chosen, he is subject to a considerable fine.

There are twenty-six Aldermen in this city, each to preside over his separate ward, and to the government of which he is more particularly to attend.

Those Aldermen who have served the office of Lord Mayor, are said to be above the chair, who with three of the eldest who are next the chair, are justices of the peace by charter.

All the Aldermen keep their wardmote for choosing ward officers, and settling the business of the ward, for redressing

grievances, and preventing all default found in the ward. In the management of these affairs, each Alderman has his deputy, chosen from among the Common Council, and in some of the wards, which are very extensive, to lessen his duties the Alderman is allowed two deputies.

In the year 1304, Geoffrey Hertel, being both Lord Mayor and Recorder of London, was ordered to wear the apparel of an Alderman, which, it is supposed, they have continued to wear ever since.

The year 1267, is memorable in the city annals, in consequence of a violent dispute between the Aldermen and the Common Council respecting the election of Mayor; when a folkmote being held on the occasion, the Aldermen and the

principal citizens were for electing Allen Souche to that important office; but the inferior people declared for Thomas Fitz-Thomas, though he, with other Aldermen and city officers, for aiding and abetting a revolt, were still prisoners in the king's castle at Windsor.

At length, Souche's party, being supported by the court, carried the election by force, and seizing many of their opponents, committed them to prison; whereupon Souche was declared duly elected.

In the same year, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, together with many of the barons, having raised a numerous army, during the turbulent reign of Henry III. under pretence of assisting the king in a war against France, but in

reality favouring the designs of a number of rebels in the Isle of Ely; the Earl procured permission to quarter part of his forces in the City of London.

The forces thus stationed, the Earl discovered his real intentions, and a strong party of the rebels arriving in Southwark, he then threw off the mask.

Hereupon the Aldermen, as the city magistrates, drew up the draw-bridge and shut the gates of the city; but the Earl forced the keys from the Mayor, and delivered them to persons attached to his cause; so that the rebels had free admission into London. The citizens were so alarmed by this violence, that many of them absconded, whereupon the Earl immediately seized their effects, and

began to secure the place by additional fortifications.

The populace now secured the persons of such of the Aldermen as were known to be in the interest of the king, committed them to prison, and divided their effects among themselves. They likewise degraded the Mayor and Sheriffs, and chose others in their stead.

Many disagreeable controversies having arisen respecting the nomination of Aldermen, and electing of Common Councilmen, it was thought expedient to adjust these matters, on such a principle, as to prevent the recurrence of such cabals. To effect which, the Common Council, in the year 1692, enacted, that none but freemen being householders in the City

of London, and paying scot, and bearing lot, and none other whatever, have the right or privilege to nominate aldermen and elect Common Council-men.

In the fatal disputes between the unfortunate Charles I. and the City of London, anno 1640, on the obnoxious impost of ship money, the king at this time rashly committed several Aldermen to prison, for refusing to give in the names of the most substantial housekeepers, within their respective wards. This was done as appears, the more effectually to enforce them to advance such sums as the king should think proper to demand, without the sanction of the parliament, and to assess on them all the sum of £200,000. To effect which, the at-

torney-general was ordered to proceed against them in the star-chamber.

This political flame was still increased by another order of the privy council, to prosecute the Lord Mayor, and the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, for their contempt and default, in prosecuting the writ for ship-money.

The title Alderman is derived from the Anglo Saxon, eaolderman. These magistrates wear a scarlet robe, bordered with fur.

The following regulations, relating to Aldermen, were made in former times. By an act of Common Council, made in the mayoralty of Sir John Robinson, baronet, anno 1662, the Aldermen were to be habited in black.

For the election of governors of the hospitals, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen were to meet at Christ's Hospital, and wear their violet on St. Matthew's day.

That from Michaelmas to Whitsuntide, they were to be clad in violet furred, and from Whitsuntide to Michaelmas, scarlet lined.

The Lord Mayor, and those Aldermen above the chair, ought to have their coats furred with gray amis, and also with changeable taffata; and those below the chair, with calabre, and with green taffata.

Mr. Chamberlain was not to wear his tippet, but when the Lord Mayor and Aldermen wear scarlet or violet.

The Alderman of any ward dying, the

wardmote return two to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, who choose one, who, as before said, on refusing to serve the office is fined £500.

This metropolitan City of England, was anciently divided into twenty-five wards, there are now twenty-six wards, each having its Alderman, namely, Aldgate, Aldersgate, Bassishaw, Billingsgate, Bishopsgate, Bread-street, Bridge-within, Bridge-without, Broad-street, Candlewick, Castle Baynard, Cheap, Coleman-street, Cordwainer-street, Cornhill, Cripplegate, Dowgate, Farringdon-within, Farringdon-without, Langbourn, Lime-street, Portsoaken, Queenhithe, Tower-street, Vintry, Walbrook.

CITY MARSHAL.

The City of London, from the remotest period of its history, attentive to its police, for the preservation of peace and good order amongst its inhabitants, appointed, besides numerous other officers, beadles for each parish. There were others, termed the sixteen beadles, belonging to the hospitals, who were to seize and take up all sturdy rogues and vagabonds, beggars and vagrants, and convey them to Bridewell; the sick, aged, lame, and

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blind, to be taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and all children beggars under sixteen, to Christ's Hospital, appointing a proper district to the beadles of each Hospital; on neglect of which they were to be punished with severe penalties.

This act of the Common Council, which was made in the year 1569, however, failed of its object; for the next year the streets were still more crowded with vagrants and beggars.

A resolution was then formed of appointing *City Marshals;* and the committee for this purpose chose William Sympson and John Read, whose office was, to take efficient measures to clear the streets of these vagrants and wandering people: for which a consideration

was allowed of six shillings and eightpence a day for them and their horses; and they had the privilege of choosing six men each, to aid them in their official duties, who were allowed one shilling per day each.

It was also thought convenient that twelve partisans, suitably armed, to assist this corps, should be provided by the Chamberlain at the expence of the city, who were to wear coats or mandalions, when attending the Marshals.

This Marshal's corps being augmented, was considered too expensive, so that to enable the city chamber to maintain it, it was determined to put an end to the pompous cavalcade of the city watch, mentioned in another part of this volume.

Instead of which, the Common Council established the common watch, which, from that period has been continued to the present. The office, then, of city Marshal originated from this incident.

The officer is dressed in blue, with red facings, wears a cocked-hat and feathers, and in all the state processions rides on a white horse. His costume gives him the air of a military commander, and he looks most important on his prancing steed, bearing in his hand a marshal's staff.

The magistrates of London, about this period, experienced the utmost difficulty in preserving order, from the vast influx of vagabonds to the metropolis from every part of the kingdom. Hence the number

of the city watch, and the erection of so many prisons for the punishment of these vicious persons.

In the year 1412, there was only one pair of stocks in the whole city, at the place called Stocks market, upon the site of which was erected the present Mansion House for the Lord Mayor. But Sir William Hampton determined to remedy these growing evils, for it became unsafe to walk the streets, from the crowds of these audacious mendicants, caused stocks to be erected in every ward, which had a salutary effect.

At the same time, the public streets were disgraced by the increase of disorderly women, to such an extent indeed that the Mayor ordered corporal punish-

ment to be inflicted on certain of the most abandoned, and caused them to be publicly led through the streets, and exposed to the jeers and contempt of the passengers.

BLUE-COAT BOY.

It was well observed by an intelligent foreigner, on his visit to England, that in this country "our palaces looked like hospitals, and our hospitals like palaces." It would be happy for England that foreigners might never have occasion to point a more illiberal remark at the moral state of things in this blessed isle. To provide asylums for the helpless aged, the needy sick, the lame and the blind, and education for the orphan, or the children of the distressed, are works of mercy, that

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and virtue, that his premature death was a national calamity.

It is situate within where stood the walls of the old City of London. Here was first, anno 1325, founded a House of Gray Friars, which being surrendered to Henry VIII., anno 1538; he in the last year of his reign, gave the church to the City of London; and in the year 1553, the excellent young King Edward VI. moved to the pious act by a sermon preached on CHARITY, by the learned Dr. Ridley, Bishop of London, founded here an hospital, for the maintenance and education of orphans, endowing the same with revenues, which he gave in trust to the City of London.

To this royal foundation many addi-

tions have been made by the donations of various persons, among others, in former times, *Richard Castell*, a shoemaker, cognomened the "*Cock of Westminster*," who by his industry and frugality had gotten together £44, per annum; left the same to these poor orphans, in perpetuity. So many others had contributed to this good work, that at the beginning of the last century, the number of children supported on the foundation was increased to eight hundred and twenty boys, and eighty girls, "all maintained with victuals, drink, lodging, clothing, and all other necessaries." The boys were also instructed in reading, writing, drawing, arithmetic, navigation, and certain amongst those whose genius tended much to classic learn-

ing, were sent to the university, "so that some of these boys" says a writer of this period, "have attained to be eminent divines, lawyers, physicians, commanders of ships, merchants, &c."

Besides the grammar school, there is a royal mathematical school, founded by King Charles II. anno 1673. His majesty gave £7000 to build and furnish the same, and also £370 10s. per annum, for ever; to be paid out of the royal exchequer, towards its endowment.

There are on this establishment, a grammar school, a mathematical school, and a writing school; which is at the end of the great hall, lofty and airy, and founded by Sir John Moore, knight, alderman of the city of London, and presi-

dent of the house. Here are accommodations for between three and four hundred boys, to sit and write at the same time. It was erected at the cost of £5000; the founder's statue in white marble is placed at the upper end with this inscription:

"Anno Dom. 1694.

"This writing school and stately building, was begun and completely finished, at the sole charge of Sir John Moore, knight, and Lord Mayor of the City, MDCLXXXI; now president of this house, he having been otherwise a liberal benefactor to the same."

The masters of these schools are four, a grammar master who has assistants, a mathematical and a writing master, who has also his assistants.

The institution, about fifty years since, added a drawing master to the establishment.

There is also a great and spacious hall, built after the fire of London, by Sir John Frederick, alderman, the expence of which amounted to an equal sum with that of the writing school, such, in former days was the munificent spirit of the wealthy inhabitants of this great commercial city. In this hall is a large picture that covers the wall at the north end, representing King James II. his nobles, the governors, treasurer and others, standing about him, with the portrait of Edward VI. and Charles II. as founders, painted in half lengths, as part of the furniture of one picture. There is also a picture of

the old mathematical school, painted by Signor Verrio. But the most interesting painting in this hall, is a large picture at the other end, representing King Edward VI. the first founder, delivering the royal charter for this hospital to the Lord Mayor, who is kneeling, with the Aldermen behind him; Bishop Ridley is also introduced in the group, with many other figures. There is also a long pictue, here the Pool of Bethesda, painted by Hogarth, and by him presented to the hospital.

There are several wards, containi[illegible], each furnishing accommodation fo[illegible] but fifty boys; and another convenient ward, set apart for the sick. To this belongs a consultation room, and other convenient

chambers, for the nurse and others attending.

The number of youths provided for, in this hospital, of late years, has sometimes amounted to fifteen hundred. There is another establishment under this royal foundation, which is at Ware and Hertford; where children too young for admittance in the hospital at London, are taught to read, preparatory to their removal hence. At Ware, the hospital school was a college-like structure. That at Hertford is not so large.

There are several governors to this hospital, usually persons of commercial importance, and who have filled some public offices in the city; from whom it

selected a president, who commonly has passed the civic chair. There is also a treasurer, who superintends the affairs of the whole house, and of the revenues; for whom a house is provided in the hospital.

Every governor when he is admitted into this society, has this charge submitted to him, in the presence of the president or treasurer, and other governors assembled in court:—

"Worshipful,

"The cause of your repair hither at present, is to give you knowledge, that you are elected and appointed, by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, to the office, charge and governance of Christ's Hospital.

"And, therefore, this is to require you, and every of you, that you endeavour yourselves, with all your wisdom and power, faithfully and diligently to serve in this vocation and calling; which is an office of high trust and worship; for ye are called to be the faithful distributors and disposers of the goods of Almighty God, to his poor and needy members. In the which office and calling if ye shall be found negligent and unfaithful, ye shall not only declare yourselves to be the most unthankful and unworthy servants of Almighty God; being put in trust to see the relief and succour of his poor and needy flock; but also ye shall shew yourself to be very notable and

great enemies to that work, which most highly doth advance and beautify the commonwealth of his realm, and chiefly of this City of London.

"These are therefore to require you and every of you, that ye here promise, before God, and this assembly of your fellow governors, faithfully to travail in this your office and calling; that this work may have its perfection, and that the needy number committed to your charge, be diligently and wholesomely provided for; as you will answer before God, at the hour and time, when you and we shall stand before him, to render an account of our doings. And promising this to do, you shall be now admitted into this company and fellowship."

Besides the chief governors, were provided various officers to receive salaries; namely, four clerks, a steward and a matron; and for every ward, a nurse and her maid; a porter and four beadles.

The beer for this large establishment is supplied by two brewers, and the bread by three bakers, on the foundation.

Two of the governors are called almoners, who in rotation for a month or more, superintend the laying in of butchers' meat, (beef and mutton), the steward attending them to market.

To support this vast establishment, the hospital has a great annual revenue in houses and lands; and this has been augmented from time to time, as most of the governors have presented sums, in

aid of its funds. The hospital has a certain revenue too, arising from the benefit of licensing a certain number of carts, belonging to the city, each of which pays a duty for sealing. There is also a duty of a small sum upon every piece of cloth brought to Blackwell-hall, which is claimed by Christ's Hospital by ancient prescription.

The costume of the boys on this foundation, is nearly that which was worn by youth in the time of Edward VI. A gown of coarse blue woollen, a black cap, a leathern belt, and yellow stockings.

By the constitution of this hospital the mathematical master must be thus qualified. He is to be a sober, discreet, and diligent person, of good life, a good scho-

lar, very well understanding the Latin and Greek languages, a very good mathematician, well knowing and ready in the theory and practice of all its parts; to the end boys may be furthered in the Latin tongue, and the master able to answer strangers, if need be; and that they and others may find his abilities to their satisfaction.

Ten boys are to be put forth annually apprentices; to masters of ships; to the end that they may be fit in time, to do service to the royal navy, and ten more to be received in their room. These youths, who are selected from the rest of the blue-coat boys, are to be the most acute, and of the readiest wits, that they may be competent to mathematical

studies. These, as a badge of distinction, wear on their breasts, fastened on their coats, a plate of silver.

Certain boys, who have made suitable progress in classic learning, are occasionally sent to one of the universities, and provided with means for their support out of the funds of this noble institution.

At present there are eleven hundred scholars upon the establishment in London. Their daily food is as follows:

Monday, boiled beef; Tuesday, plum-pudding and bread and butter; Wednesday, boiled mutton and broth; Thursday, roast mutton and potatoes; Friday, boiled beef; Saturday, pease soup and bread and butter; Sunday, roast mutton and potatoes. To which has been added, by

the contribution of certain benefactors, twelve times a year, roast beef; twice a year, roast veal; once a year, roast pork; and once a year, boiled pork and pease-pudding.

Milk and water and bread daily for breakfast. Bread and cheese and beer for supper.

The preparatory school at Hertford, maintains at present between four and five hundred boys. Also, separate from these, are accommodation for between sixty and seventy girls.

Of the conveniency and general good management of every department of these establishments, too much cannot be said in praise. The masters are impartially and carefully selected for their competency

to teach the various branches of education which they profess. The dormitories and lavatories are admirably contrived; all the officers, the matron, and others, are attentive to the instruction, health, and comfort of the scholars, and the institution is an honour to the ancient city of London.

KNIGHT OF THE GARTER.

THE title Knight, says a learned author, is derived from the German word *Knecht*, signifying originally a lusty servitor.

The same people, as the ancient Romans gave their young men togam virilem, by public authority bestowed on their young men able to manage arms, a shield and a javelin, as fit for martial service, and to be a member of the commonwealth; such then were denominated Knechts; whence it appears is derived the institution of knighthood.

The term Knight, implies in the Latin, and many modern languages, a word that

KNIGHT of the GARTER.

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properly signifies a horseman, because they were accustomed to serve in war on horseback, and were in England called *Hachenchyts*, riding servitors. In common law they are styled *milites*, soldiers, because they commonly held lands in knight service, to serve the king in his wars, as soldiers.

The honour of knighthood being intended for some personal desert, was bestowed only for the life of the person on whom it was conferred, and descended not to the son.

In England, are several degrees of knighthood; that, however, which has always been held as the chief, is the order of St. George, the members of which are denominated, Knights of the Garter.

This order is esteemed the most honourable, if not the most ancient now in use in Christendom.

Its first institution, according to the statutes of the order, was in the year 1350, the twenty-third year of the warlike and illustrious King Edward III.

There are many amusing stories of the origin of this illustrious order, which originated, it is likely, in the fancy of the early writers upon the romantic feats of chivalry, wherein no exploit of great note occurred, that was not influenced by some fair lady. That it originated in the chivalric spirit of the age, cannot be doubted; but the high reputation which this sovereign had acquired for bravery and all courtly grace, and the gallantry

of his son, the renowned Black Prince, and others who had distinguished themselves in his gallant train, raised the English to the reputation of the most accomplished school of chivalry in the world. So great, and noble were the military notions of this king, that his word of honour, as a true knight, passed current in all foreign courts; hence, on great public occasions, even during times of war, when feats of chivalry were to be performed, the youth of rank, aspiring to military fame, ventured to come from foreign courts, to enter the lists with confidence on the parole of the English King, to grant them a safe conduct to, and from the country.

To this prince is to be ascribed the

custom of receiving hostage of prisoners taken in battle; an act of noble-mindedness, as well as good policy, which at the same time that it encouraged the valour of his soldiers, taught them to spare a vanquished enemy. This noble example, influencing the conduct of other princes, had the happy effect of destroying much of the ferocious spirit that had prevailed on the field at the termination of a battle, and consequently lessened one of the greatest calamities of war. To such an extent had the parole of honour arrived, in this prince's reign, that even a common soldier, who had neglected to pay his ransom, at the appointed time, or to deliver himself upon the frontier of the country, was thereby proclaimed by

name a scoundrel, and degraded alike in the opinion of both armies.

The order derived its name of the *Garter*, because this only part of the whole habit was made choice of, at its first institution, which was constantly worn, and to put in mind the companions of the order, that as they were thus joined in a firm league of amity and concord, so by the garter, as by a fast tie of affection, they were obliged to love each other.

The motto, which is still inscribed on the garter, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*, was, in the French language, conformably to the custom of the times, when our laws, pleadings, and sermons were in that

tongue, which was the ordinary language of the English court.

It appears by ancient records, that this illustrious company is a college, or corporation, having a great seal, and consisting of a sovereign guardian, who is always the King of England, and of twenty-five knights companions, and fourteen secular canons, &c.

The installation of a knight of this order, formerly consisted of many ceremonies now abolished; yet enough are retained to make the spectacle solemn and imposing.

On the morning of an installation, the knights' commissioners appointed by the sovereign to instal the persons who are

to be invested with this dignity, assemble in the great chamber at the deanery at Windsor, robed in the full habit of the order, where Garter king at arms, and the other officers, appear also in their robes; but the knights elect in their under habits, with their caps and feathers in their hands.

From hence they walk two and two in procession to St. George's Chapel, preceded by the poor knights, prebends, heralds, pursuivants, and other officers of the order, in their respective habits; where being arrived, the knights elect rest themselves in chairs behind the altar, and are respectively introduced into the chapter-house, where the knights' commissioners, (Garter and the other officers

attending) invest them with the surcoat or upper habit of the order, whilst the registrar reads the following admonition: "Take this robe of crimson to the increase of your honour, and in token or sign of the most noble order you have received, wherewith you being defended, may be bold, not only strong to fight, but also to offer yourself to shed your blood for Christ's faith, and the liberties of the church, and the just and necessary defence of them that are oppressed and needy." Then Garter presents the crimson velvet girdle to the commissioners, who buckle it on, and also gird on the sword and hanger.

This being done, the procession of each knight elect separately is made into the

choir, attended by the companions of the order, preceded by the poor knights, prebends, &c. as before, Garter in the middle, bearing on a crimson velvet cushion the mantle, hood, garter, collar, and George, having the registrar on the right hand, who carries the New Testament, and the oath fairly written on parchment, and the black rod on his left.

On entering the choir, after reverence made to the sovereign's stall, the knights are conducted to their several stalls, under their respective banners, and other ensigns of honour. One of the officers of the order then holding the New Testament open, the knight elect places his hand upon it, and the registrar reads the oath. "You being chosen to be one of

the honourable company of the noble order of the Garter, shall promise and swear by the Holy Evangelists by you here touched, that willingly you shall not break any statute of the said order, or any article in them contained, the same being agreeable, and not repugnant to the laws of Almighty God, and the laws of this realm, as far forth as to you belongeth and appertaineth: so help you God and his holy word."

After the oath is taken, the commissioners invest the knight with the mantle of the order, during which the registrar reads the admonition, "Receive this robe," &c. Garter then presents to the commissioners the hood, who place it over the knight's right shoulder, bringing

the tippets across his breast, and tucking them under the belt.

This part of the ceremony performed, Garter presents to them the George, which is hung over the hood, and the registrar reads the following admonition:: "Wear this collar about thy neck, adorned with the image of the blessed martyr and soldier of Christ, St. George, by whose imitation provoked, thou mayest so pass over both prosperous and adverse encounters, that having stoutly vanquished thy enemies, both of body and soul, thou mayest not only receive the praises of this transient combat, but be crowned with the palm of eternal victory."

Garter then presents the statute book,

which the commissioners deliver to the knight, after which they place his cap and feathers on his head, and seat him on his stall. This being done, the officers of the order retire, and stand before their seats: while the knight thus installed rises, and bows first towards the altar, and then to the sovereign's stall.

The solemnity of the installation being thus over, and prayers ended, the grand procession of the knights commences from the choir in the full habits of the order, with their caps adorned with diamonds, and plumes of white feathers, round the church, and proceeding out at the south door, with his majesty's band, in state costume, before, joined by the poor knights

of Windsor; the choir of St. George's Chapel, the canons and prebands of Windsor; the heralds and pursuivants at arms; the Dean of Windsor, registrar of the order, with Garter King at Arms on his right hand, and on his left, blac[illegible] rod of the order; the knights' companions according to their stalls, their trains supported by the choristers of St. George's Chapel.

The procession is thus continued through the courts of the castle into St. George's hall. The knights then rest themselves in the royal apartments, while a sumptuous banquet, when the king is present, is served up in this magnificent chamber.

At the second course, at this royal ban-

quet, Garter with the officers at arms, crying *largesse*, make their obeisances and retire. These grand solemnities are concluded with a ball and a magnificent banquet for the ladies, in the castle.

At a chapter held in 1786, it was ordained, that in future, the order should consist of twenty-five knights, exclusive of the blood-royal.

MAIL COACH.

MAIL COACH.

THERE is no part of the great state of commercial facilities, of whi gland may justly claim pre-eminence all other countries, than that of posting. The best constructed vehicles, the finest breed of horses, the best drivers, and the completest arrangements, for punctuality and speed, characterise all the posting departments of this flourishing empire.

The great improvements of the turnpike roads generally throughout the island, within the last forty years, naturally opened the way to enterprise amongst the proprietors of stage coaches,

and journies from London, to some parts of the kingdom, through a generous competition, were performed with prodigious speed, even before the invention of the mail coach.

The regularity of dispatch, however, which formed the main advantage of the establishment of these carriages, to the several parts of the kingdom, to which they travelled, excited the still greater exertions of the coach proprietors, and the general adoption of guards, a custom derived from the scheme of Mr. Palmer, the original projector of the plan of mail coaches, has at length outdone the swiftness of these government conveyances, until indeed, travelling in England has arrived almost to the *ne plus ultra*

of perfection. What would our forefathers have thought, could it have been foretold, that newspapers, published in London on a Saturday night, would be conveyed to subscribers, one hundred and seventy miles, by Sunday at noon.

The following curious particulars of the state of posting in England, is from a very scarce publication, of the reign of Charles II. Speaking of the Post-office, the author says:

"And as the masterpiece of all these good regulations, established by the present post-master-general, for the better governing the said office, he hath annexed and appropriated the market towns of England, so well to the respective postages, that there is no considerable market town

but hath an easy and certain conveyance for the letters thereof, to and from the grand office, in the due course of the mails every post.

"Though the number of letters missive in England, were not at all considerable in our ancestors days, yet it is now so prodigiously great, (since the meanest people have generally learnt to write) that this office is farmed for thirty thousand pounds a year. Note also, that letters are conveyed with more expedition and less charges, than in any foreign country.

"A letter, containing a whole sheet of paper, is conveyed 80 miles for 2d. and two sheets for 4d. and an ounce of letters only 8d. and that in so short a time, by

night as well as by day, that every 24 hours the post goes 120 miles, and in five days, an answer may be had from a place, 300 miles distant from the wri

"Moreover if any gentleman desire ride post, to any principal town England, post horses are always in readiness (taking no horse without consent of his owner) which in other kings' reigns was not duly observed, and only 3d. is demanded for every English mile, and for every stage to the post-boy 4d. for conducting.

"Besides this excellent convenience of conveying letters, and men on horseback, there is of late such an admirable commodiousness, both for men and women of better rank, to travel from London,

to almost any great town of England, and to almost all the villages near this great city, that the like hath not been known in the world, and that is by stage coaches, wherein one may be transported to any place, sheltered from foul weather, and foul ways, free from endamaging one's health or body, by hard jogging or over violent motion, and this not only at a low price, as about a shilling for every five miles, but with such velocity and speed, as that the posts in some foreign countries, make not more miles in a day; for the *Stage Coaches*, called Flying Coaches, make forty or fifty miles in a day, as from London to Oxford, or Cambridge, and that in the space of 12 hours, not counting the time for dining; setting

forth not too early, nor coming in too late. The Post-office was then in Bishopsgate Street."

From hence we perceive that the custom of travelling by stage coaches, was arranged on a systematic plan in this country, one hundred and fifty years ago; and when it is considered that four wheeled carriages were then heavy, and so clumsily built, and the roads were so generally bad, we may infer that the cattle were strong, which could perform a journey of longer stages than of late, at the ratio, including long stoppages, of fifty miles in twelve hours.

The excellent regulations for the secure, expeditious, and economical conveyance of a great proportion of the correspon-

dence by letters, by mail-coaches, as before observed, are owing to the system established by the late W. Palmer. These mail-coaches travel about 13,000 miles a day, for which the contractors receive upon an average one penny-halfpenny per mile. The number of mail coaches out of London, are twenty-two, and those which are engaged in the cross road communication are forty-five. The first of these carriages started for Bath and Bristol, on the 2nd of August, 1784; mail coaches became in general use in 1786.

Previously to the establishment of this plan of conveying letters, they were sent to various parts by mail carts, small carriages in the shape of a dog kennel, on two wheels, and driven by a post boy.

The frequent robberies, however, to which the post-bags were subjected, caused the mail coaches to be hailed with universal satisfaction, as the coachman and guard, being armed with each a brace of pistols, and the guard with the addition of a blunderbuss, has justified the motto adopted on their first starting, "*Persons* and *property* protected," for from the commencement of their travelling, we believe no instance has occurred in England, at least, of a mail coach being stopped by robbers on the road.

Nothing appears more generally to excite the surprise of inquiring foreigners, sojourning here, than the superiority of all that belongs to the fitting out of our stage coaches. The mail coaches, in par-

ticular as seen at the White Horse Cellar in Piccadilly, every evening, where they wait for the letter-bags, affords a display of such cattle, as no country in the world can match.

The coachmen and guards wear the king's livery, scarlet, faced with blue and gold lace; and are an intrepid and fearless class. The appearance of the mail coaches, men and horse, proudly prancing in cavalcade, annually on the birth-day of the sovereign, is one of the gratifying sights peculiar to this country.

3

POSTMAN.

The history of letter-carrying, though an office now forming a part of the general posting system, is of some thousand years earlier date than the machines which have been invented for transporting written correspondence from place to place.

That the custom of transporting written communications to distant places, by messengers, is of high antiquity, we have the evidence of sacred history to prove; that the custom prevailed in the then enlightened regions of the world, we have also profane history coeval with these times to assure us of the same fact.

In the middle ages, posts were not unknown in Europe; Charlemagne, it appears, after the subjugation of Italy, Germany, and part of Spain, established public posts to each of these countries, which greatly contributed to secure the conquests his military prowess had atchieved. The advantages of these his wise institutions are supposed to have been lost to his successors, during the dark period which prevailed after the death of this great prince.

The next period of the revival of posts, on the authority of the Chronicles, was about the year 1464, under the reign of Louis XI. of France, whose policy induced him to establish about two hundred and thirty couriers, who traversed the

country, and delivered their letters and dispatches at their appointed stations. These early posts were limited to the convenience of the great.

The posts, on a more general, useful and liberal plan, is said to have emanated from the university of Paris, which from its high celebrity, being crowded with students from all parts of Europe, caused a vast correspondence between them and their friends; hence messengers were in constant requisition for the conveyance of clothes, books, and various necessaries, as well for study as for comfort; out of which circumstances, a regular corps of active messengers were employed, who for their great speed were termed in the university registers, "*nuntii volantes.*"

These were supported by the heads of the university, and ultimately became not only a regular establishment, but a considerable source of revenue to the university.

The course of the institution of posts, referring to the Chronological Tables, is nearly as follows. Posts originated in the regular couriers, as established by Cyrus, five hundred years before the Christian era. These were imitated by Charlemagne, thirteen hundred years after, namely Anno Domini 800. The university of Paris set up a post in France, 1478. A similar institution became general through England, Scotland and Ireland, 1635, in the reign of Charles I. which was improved and regulated nearly upon the present plan, 1660, in the year of the

restoration of Charles II., and by subsequent acts during his reign.

The rates of postage have been raised from time to time, but more frequently during the last reign. An advance being made upon the charge for letters, in 1784, 1797, 1801, and about the year 1813.

The General Post-office, situated in Lombard-street after the fire of London, maintained the following establishments.

The profits of the Post-office were settled by act of parliament on his Royal Highness the Duke of York, afterwards James II.

His majesty constituted his postmaster-general, by letters patent under the great seal of England, and conferred that office upon the Right Honourable Henry Earl of

Arlington, lord chamberlain of the king's household.

The postmaster general was to keep one grand or general office in the city of London, from whence letters and packets were to be dispatched,

Every Monday to France, Italy, Spain, Flanders, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, &c. and to Kent.

Every Tuesday to the United Netherlands, Germany, &c., and to all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Every Wednesday to Kent only, and the Downs.

Every Thursday to France, Spain, Italy and all parts of England and Scotland.

Every Friday to the Spanish and United

Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and to Kent.

Every Saturday to all parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

And the answers of the said letters and paquets, were received in the said office, in due course, and from thence dispersed and delivered, according to their respective directions, with all expedition.

The same office was managed by a deputy, and other officers, to the number of seventy-seven persons; all to give their actual personal attendance respectively, for the dispatch of business.

Upon this grand office, depended one hundred and eighty-two deputy postmasters in England and Scotland, most of whom kept regular offices in thei

stages, and sub-post-masters in their branches. In Ireland was also another general office for that kingdom, kept in Dublin, consisting of eighteen like officers, and forty-five deputy post-masters.

The postmaster-general also kept constantly for the transport of the said letters, between England and France,

France, two pacquet boats.

Flanders, two pacquet boats.

Holland, three pacquet boats.

Ireland, three pacquet boats.

From this statement, we presume, that the internal correspondence employed only three days in the week in sending out the post mail carts; yet, the correspondence with Ireland maintained three

pacquet boats, and with Holland, then a country rivalling England in commerce, the correspondence maintained the same number.

On the present establishment of the general post office, the number of officers are 175; messengers and porters, 35; letter carriers, 203; mail guards, 270.

The principal offices under the postmaster general are those of the secretary, the foreign, inland, the accountant-generals, the receiver-generals, and various subordinate departments. Besides the chief offices, there are upwards of sixty receiving houses open in different parts of the town for general post letters.

In the district of the two-penny post, which extends above ten miles round

London, there are 140 receiving houses: the number of officers is 48, and of letter carriers, 359.

Table of Rules and Rates of Postage.

From any post office in England or Wales, to any place not exceeding 15 miles from such office, 4d.

For a distance above 15, and not exceeding 30, miles, 5d.

For above 30, and not exceeding 50 miles, 7d.

For above 50, and not exceeding 80, miles, 8d.

For above 80, and not exceeding 120, miles, 9d.

For above 120, and not exceeding 170, miles, 10d.

For above 170, and not exceeding 230, miles, 11d.

For above 230, and not exceeding 300, miles, 12d.

For above 300, and not exceeding 400, miles, 13d.

For above 400, and not exceeding 500, miles, 14d.

And so on in proportion; the postage increasing progressively one penny for a single letter for every like excess of distance 100 miles.

The regularity, punctuality, dispatch, and correctness with which the mighty business of this office is daily executed, may be numbered amongst the most extraordinary examples of the effects of human intellect, and held up as one of the many

instances of the improvements of modern political economy, over that of the most renowned periods of any ancient people.

By a regulation of late years, the postman, who delivers letters from house to house, according to their superscriptions, is dressed in the royal livery. General post letters are delivered in the morning, somewhat earlier in the City of London, and particularly in parts contiguous to the general post office, than in Westminster, and the north-west parts of the metropolis.

The two-penny post letters are delivered six times daily, within certain limits, and three times daily in the environs, thus affording facilities to correspondence, of incalculable benefit to a commercial city like that of the British metropolis.

NIV.
BF

BRITISH PEER.

"THE nobility of England," says Chamberlayne, "is called the Peerage of England, because they are all *Pares Regni*, that is *Nobilitate Pares*, though *gradu impares*."

These by ancient law were to be men "notable for courage, wisdom, wealth," &c. who had been judged fit and worthy to enjoy certain privileges, titles, dignities and honours, above the common people; to be placed in a higher sphere, and to be a screen between the king and the inferior subjects, to defend the one from insolencies, and the other from tyranny;

to interpose by their counsel, courage and grandeur, where common persons dare not, ought not to be so hardy; to support the king, and defend the kingdom with their lives and fortunes.

The degrees of the English nobility are five, namely, Duke, Marquess, Earl, Viscount, and Baron. These are all peers; but the four first are for state, privilege, and precedence above and before those who are barons only.

"A Duke, in Latin *dux a ducendo*, noblemen, being anciently," says our author, "either generals and leaders of armies in time of war, or wardens of marches, and governors of provinces in time of peace; subsequently made so for the term of life, and held by lands and

fees, and at length made hereditary, and titular."

The first Duke, since the Conqueror, was Edward the Black Prince, created by his royal father Edward III. in the eleventh year of his reign. A Duke, in more modern times, is created by patent, cincture of sword, mantle of state, imposition of a cap, and coronet of gold on his head, and a verge of gold put into his hand.

A Marquess was originally so called from the government of marches, and frontier countries. The first created with this title, was Robert Vere, Earl of Oxford, made Marquess of Dublin, in the eighth year of Richard II. A Marquess is created by a cincture of a sword, a mantle of state,

imposition of a cap of honour, with a coronet, and delivery of a charter or patent.

Earls, anciently denominated *Comites*, because they were accustomed *Comitari Regem*, to wait upon the king for counsel and advice. By the Saxons they were designated *Ealdormon*, by the Danes, *Eorlas*, and by the English *Earls*.

The English Earls, in remote times, had, for the support of their state, the third penny out of the sheriffs' court, issuing out of all pleas of the shire from which he derived his title.

An Earl is created by the cincture of a sword, mantle of state put upon him by the king himself, a cap and a coronet put upon his head, and a charter in his

hand. All Earls are styled by the King, *our cousin;* and they formerly used the style of *nos.*

All the Earls of England were formerly local, or denominated from some shire. As they increased they assumed the name of some eminent part of a county, city, or town, with the exception of one, who, by virtue of his office, is Earl Marshal of England. Earl Rivers was, at one period, another exception, who held his denomination from an illustrious family. Of late years, however, there are many whose Earldom bears the family name.

VISCOUNT, *Vicecomes.*—This title is said to have been first given by Henry VI. in the eighteenth year of his reign, to John Beaumont; though it appears, that his

father, the heroic Henry V. in the fifth year of his reign, created Sir Robert Brent a Viscount. Peers holding this title are also called cousins by the sovereign. Viscounts are made by patent.

Baron, *Baroni.*—These nobles, by the Roman law, were called *Barones*; in time of war the safety of the king and his people having a principal dependence upon their courage, conduct and skill in martial affairs.

Anciently, those Barons only were accounted Peers of the realm, who held of the king *per integram baroniam* which consisted of thirteen knights' fees, or four hundred marks, and whoever possessed as much were eligible to be summoned to parliament.

Barons, in the early part of the reign of Henry III. were not held of so high importance as afterwards, when that king, after having suppressed a great rebellion against him, called by writ to parliament such great men only who had proved their loyalty; subsequently, none were accounted Peers of the realm, but those who were called by the king's special writ, and the others lost their peerage.

All the afore-mentioned degrees have the title of Lord, (dominus) from the Saxon word *Laford.*

The Lords of England, both temporal and spiritual, are feudatories to the king, and in their creation, and also in their succession, do swear an oath of fealty,

and do homage to the king their sovereign, and pay certain duties, as signs and symbols of their subjection to their prince.

All honours in England are given by the king, who is the sole fountain of honour. None of these hereditary honours bestowed on a family by the king can be lost but by want of issue male, except, where the patent extends to issue female, as it sometimes does; unless by some high crime or misdemeanour, and then, that family cannot be restored to their blood, but by parliament.

The several degrees of the English nobility are distinguished by their titles and ensigns of honour. A Duke has the title of grace, and, by ancient allowance, might be styled, most high, potent, and

noble prince. A Marquess, most noble, and potent lord. An Earl, most noble and potent lord. A Viscount, right noble, and potent lord; and a Baron, right noble lord.

The coronets of these five orders of nobility, have each their distinctive characteristics. A Duke's coronet has leaves round the rim, without pearls. A Marquess, a pearl and strawberry leaf, alternately round. An Earl's has pearls raised upon points, and leaves between, round the rim. A Viscount's, pearls all around; and a Baron's, only six pearls upon the circle.

The Dukes of the blood-royal, bear coronets of crosses and flower-de-luce,

which is also borne by the Prince of Wales.

Nobles are also distinguished by their robes of parliament, by their several guards on their mantlets, or cloaks about their shoulders. A Baron has two guards, a Viscount two and a half, an Earl three, and a Duke four. Note, these guards, or bars of gold lace, are represented on the robe of the accompanying plate of the Peer.

The mantle of a Duke, Marquess and Earl, is faced with ermine, that of a Viscount, and Baron, with plain white fur.

The nobility of England have at all times enjoyed many considerable privileges: the peers of the realm, being con-

sidered the king's hereditary constant counsellors, are privileged from all arrests, unless for treason, felony, or breach of the peace, condemnation in parliament, or contempt of the king. No capias can be sued against them for actions of debt or trespass; in criminal causes, treason, or felony, they cannot be tried by any other, but a jury of peers of the realm; who are not as other juries, to be put to their oath, but their verdict given in "*upon their honour*," sufficeth. In civil causes they are not to be impannelled upon any jury, nor upon any inquests, *de facto*, though in a matter between two peers. In no case to be bound upon their good behaviour, nor put to swear that they will not break the

peace; but only required to promise it, upon their honour; which was ever accounted so sacred, as upon no terms to be violated. In times remote, a peer of the realm could not be put to the rack or torture, to discover the truth, though even accused of high treason. Every peer of the realm called to parliament, was granted the privilege in his lawful absence, to constitute a proxy to vote for him, which none of the commons may do.

There were certain marks of state granted to each degree amongst the nobility, some of which may appear curious according to the customs of the present times.

A Duke may have, in all places out of the

king's presence, a cloth of estate hanging down, within *half a yard* of the ground; so may his Duchess, and her train borne up by a Baroness; and no Earl to wash, with a Duke, without the Duke's pleasure.

A Marquess may have a cloth of estate hanging within a *yard* of the ground, and that in all places out of the presence of the king or a *Duke;* and his Marchioness to have her train borne by a knight's wife, and no Viscount to wash with a Marquess, but at his pleasure.

An Earl may have a cloth of estate without pendants, but only fringe; and a Countess may have her train borne by a gentlewoman, out of the presence of her

superiors, and in their presence by a gentleman.

A Viscount may have a cover of assay holden under his cup while he drinks; but no assay taken as Dukes, Marquesses, and Earls may have. A Viscountess may have her gown borne up by a woman, out of the presence of her superiors, and in their presence, by a man.

A Baron may also have the cover of his cup holden underneath whilst he drinketh, and a Baroness may have her gown borne up by a man in the presence of a Viscountess.

BISHOP.

Our learned antiquaries trace the dignity of this title to so early a period as that, when the Christian faith was by authority received into England. Then, as in the state, so in the church, the laws and constitutions of the kingdom, would not that there should be an equality of all persons, hence on the establishment of the clergy, to every city was ordained a Bishop, who was invested with a pre-eminence over the rest of the priesthood, within a certain jurisdiction.

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church as consecrations, consultations, for the remedy of general disorders, or for audiences judicial, when the conduct of any Bishop should be called in question, it was determined to set one in chief authority over the others; who was thence named *Archiepiscopus*, arch or chief Bishop.

To lessen the labours of the Bishops, whose duties increased with the growth of Christianity, or whose dioceses were more extensive than ordinary, there were also ordained, *Chorepiscopi*, suffragan, or subsidiary Bishops, to have the name, title, style, and dignity of Bishops, and to be consecrated by the Archbishop of the province; each one to execute such power, jurisdiction and authority, and to receive

such profits as were limited in his commission by the Bishop or Diocesan whose suffragan he was.

The suffragan Bishops, by an act of Parliament in the reign of Henry VIII. were to be only of the following towns:

The suffragan Bishop for the diocese of Canterbury, must be at Dover only; for York, at Nottingham and Hull; for London, at Colchester; for Durham, at Berwick; for Winchester, at Guildford, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight; for Lincoln, at Bedford, Leicester, Grantham, and Huntingdon; for Norwich, at Thetford and Ipswich; for Salisbury, at Shaftsbury, Melton, and Marlborough; for Bath and Wells, at Taunton; for Hereford, at Bridgenorth; for Coventry and Litchfield,

at Shrewsbury; for Ely, at Cambridge; for Exeter, at St. Germains; for Carlisle, at Penrith. In public assemblies they were to take place next after the temporal peers of the realm.

In England are two Archbishops, and twenty-two Bishops; of Suffragan Bishops there are now none.

Before the arrival of the Saxons in England, the Christian Britons had three Archbishops; namely, of London, York, and Caerleon, an ancient great city of South Wales. Subsequently the Archiepiscopal see of London was by the Saxons transferred to Canterbury, in honour of St. Austin the monk, who first preached the gospel there to the heathen Saxons. The Welsh Archbishop was translated

from Caerleon to St. David's in Pembrokeshire, and afterwards subjected to the see of Canterbury; since which Great Britain has had but two Archbishops.

Formerly, the Archbishop of Canterbury had primacy as well over all Ireland as England, and the Irish Bishops received consecration from his hands, until the middle of the twelfth century; for during the reign of the two first Anglo Norman kings, it was declared that Canterbury was the Metropolitan Church of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the isles adjacent. He was, therefore, styled, Patriarch, or chief Bishop over several kingdoms.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in remote times, was so highly respected abroad,

that in general councils he had precedence of all other Archbishops, and was placed at the Pope's right foot. At home, he was held next in dignity and authority to the sovereign, and accounted the second person in the kingdom, and named, and ranked, even before the princes of the blood.

By an ancient charter, granted by William the Conqueror to Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, that he is to hold his lands with the same freedom, in *Dominico suo*, as the king holds his, excepting only in two or three cases, and those of no great importance. In writing and speaking to an Archbishop, is given the title of Grace, and Most Reverend Father in God.

By the statute of the first of Elizabeth, it is provided, that the queen, by the advice of the Archbishop, might ordain and publish such rites and ceremonies, as may be for God's glory, for the edifying of the church, and due reverence of the sacraments.

The next in place amongst the clergy of England, are the Bishops; so called from the Saxon word *Bisceop*. All the Bishops of England are barons and peers of the realm, and have precedence of all temporal barons under viscounts. In the parliament they have place in the upper house, in a double capacity, not only as barons, but as Bishops; for before they were barons, they had in all times place in the great council of the kingdom,

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bishop of Canterbury, advised the king to commit him. "But how say you, when as a dignitary of the church, he stands protected," observed the king.

"You may not commit the Bishop of Bayeux," replied the Archbishop, "but you may well commit the Earl of Kent."

This instance of casuistry may be likened to what was said by Piranus, secretary to Charles V. on the occasion of Pope Julius the Second having combined himself with the French king against the emperor. "The Pope is an honest man, but Julius is a very knave."

Henry the Second caused his eldest son Henry to be crowned king, and that day served him at table. Whereupon, the Archbishop of York observed, "Your

Highness may rejoice, for there is never a Prince in the world that hath this day such an illustrious waiter at his table as yourself."

"Wonder you so much at that, my lord," returned the young king, "and doth my father think it a debasement for him, being descended of royal blood only by his mother, to serve me at the table, that have both a king to my father and a queen to my mother?" Which proud speech when the unfortunate father heard, he whispered the Archbishop in the ear, "I repent me, I repent me of nothing more, than of untimely advancement."

Wimund, Bishop of the Isle of Man, in the reign of King Stephen, a martial pre-

late, as many were in that age, after he had made an inroad into Scotland, and severely annoyed the Scots, some English procured by them, suddenly apprehended him, put out his eyes, and otherways mutilated him, as the author says, for the peace of the kingdom, not for the kingdom of Heaven. The Bishop, afterwards retiring himself to Byland Abbey, in Yorkshire, would often courageously say, "Had I but a sparrow's eye, my enemies should never carry it away Scot-free."

Gilbert Foliot Bishop of London disliking the proud prelate Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, would say, "*Zachæum non divertisset Dominus nisi de sicomoros jam descendisset.*" That Zachæus had never entertained and lodged

Christ, unless he had come down from the fig tree; or as though Christ could never like the lofty, until they would humiliate themselves, and come down.

In the same reign, the see of Lincoln was so long vacant, that a certain monk of Tame prophesied that there would be no more bishops of Lincoln; for Geoffry, the king's base son was preferred after sixteen years vacancy of this see, who so managed his pastoral office, that it was said of him, "he was far more skilful in fleecing than feeding his flock."

This pompous prelate would, in his protestations and oaths, asseverate, "By my faith, and the king my father;" which induced Walter Mapes, the king's chaplain, to remind him, that he might do as well

to sometimes remember his mother's honesty, as his father's royalty. This Bishop Geoffry, in all his instruments, used the style of *G. Archiepiscopus Eborum*; but in the circumference of his seal, to notify his royal parentage, *Sigilium Galfredi filii Regis Anglorum.*

In the reign of King Henry, a Bishop of London, stoutly withstood the pope's nuncio, who would have levied severe exactions of the clergy; upon which resistance the nuncio complained to the king, who shortly after menaced the Bishop, and told him, he would cause the pope to pluck his peacock's tail. The Bishop boldly answered the king, saying, that the pope and he being too strong for him, they might bereave him of his bishopric, by

might—but never by right; and that although they took away his mitre, they would leave him his helmet.

William of Wickham, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, came into the service, and afterwards acquired the great favour of King Edward the Third, by becoming overseer of the works at Windsor Castle, which mighty structure was nearly rebuilt and greatly augmented by his architectural skill, although before his being retained in the king's service, he had been a poor parish priest. It is related of him, that when the great work was finished, he caused a stone, in the recess of the building to be thus inscribed, "This work made Wickham," which being seen by the King, he was offended at the presump-

tion of his servant, for thus arrogating to himself the glory of the magnificent building. But when Wickham, who with great address told his royal master, the meaning was, that that work, under his royal auspices, had been his making, the king was pleased with this *new reading*, and applauded his grateful servant, and remained satisfied.

When this same Wickham sued King Edward for the bishopric of Winchester, it is related that he told him, that he was "*unmeet for it*," because he was unlearned; but he replied, "In recompense thereof, I will make many learned." Which promise he nobly performed indeed; for he founded New College in Oxford, and another college in Winchester,

each of which munificent foundations have afforded abundance of learned men both in the church and the state, and others illustrious in sciences and arts.

John Morton, Bishop of Ely, but afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, being strongly urged by the Duke of Buckingham, then alienated from Richard the Third, to speak his mind freely to that tyrant king, in matters of state, the Bishop answered, "In good faith, my lord, I love not much to talk with princes, as a thing not at all devoid of peril, although the words be without fault, forasmuch as it shall not be taken as the party meant, but as it pleaseth the humour of the Prince to construe it. And ever I think on Æsop's tale; that when the lion had pro-

claimed, that on pain of death, there should no horned beast abide in the wood, one that had in his forehead a bunch of flesh fled away at full speed. The fox, who saw him run so fast, inquired, "why he made such haste;" he answered, "because of the royal proclamation." "Why, fool," quoth the fox, "it will not harm thee—it is no horn upon thy head." "No, marry!" replied the other, "but what if the lion call it a horn!—Where am I then?"

Bishop Bedell, the most pious and benevolent Bishop of Kilmore in Ireland, amongst other benefactions to the people of that country, translated the bible into heir language. So unchangeable was the attachment of this good man to where he obtained his first promotion,

that he would never be translated to another see, thinking, with Bishop Berkley, who cherished the same local attachments, that his church was his wife, from whom he should never be divorced.

Other dignitaries of the church, however, have yielded to circumstances, and changed their old residences for promotion, from motives sufficiently pure to secure their reputation from censure, though not without feelings of deep regret; amongst others, that pious and much esteemed prelate, Dr. Beilby Porteus, late Bishop of London, thus speaks of his emotions on quitting his living at Hunton, the place of his favourite residence, that calm, delightful retreat, where he had passed so many years of happiness.

"When I took my leave of Hunton early in the morning," says the Bishop, "and cast a parting look on the rich vale below, (the sun shining gloriously upon it, and lighting up all the beauties of that enchanting scene) my heart sunk within me; and as I went slowly up the hill, I could not forbear repeating and applying to myself those exquisite lines of the Minstrel:

"O! how canst thou renounce the boundless store
Of charms, which Nature to her vot'ries yields;
The warbling woodland, the resounding shore,
The pomp of groves, and garniture of fields;
All that the genial ray of morning gilds,
And all that echoes to the song of even;
All that the mountain's sheltering bosom shields,
And all the dread magnificence of Heaven;
O! how canst thou renounce, and hope to be forgiven!"

"It was indeed," rejoins the Bishop, "a long time before I could forgive *myself*. But various circumstances rendered this sacrifice necessary; and by degrees custom reconciled me to a scene very different from that to which I had been so long accustomed, and which it cost me no small pain to renounce."

But, to return to Bishop Bedell, "who lived with his clergy," says his biographer, "as they had been his brethren. When he went his visitations, he would not accept of the invitations that were made to him by the great men of the country, but would needs eat with his brethren, in such poor inns, and of such coarse fare, as the places afforded. He went about always on foot when he was at Dublin,

(one servant only attending him) except on public occasions, that obliged him to ride in procession with his brethren. He never kept a coach in his life, his strength always enabling him to ride on horseback. Many poor Irish families about him were maintained out of his kitchen, and in the Christmas time, he had the poor always eating with him at his own table, and he brought himself to endure both the sight of their rags, and their rudeness. He by his will ordered that his body should be buried in a church-yard, with this inscription:

"DEPOSITUM GULIELMI QUONDAM EPISCOPI KILMORENSIS."

He did not like the burying in a church; for he observed, there was much both of

superstition and pride in it, so he believed it was a great annoyance to the living, where there was so much vapour of dead bodies rising about them. Hence, he made a canon in his synod against burying in churches, and recommended, in consequence of crowding so many bodies together on a small spot, that burying-places should be removed out of towns.

William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor of England under Henry the VII. and Henry VIII. was a learned and good prelate, whose memory will be ever revered by all lovers of literature, for the patronage which he constantly bestowed on Erasmus.

Warham died, as D'Alembert says, as a Catholic Bishop ever should die, without

debts and without legacies. This distinguished prelate, to use the words of Mr. Seward, though he passed through the highest offices in church and state, he left little more than was requisite to pay his funeral charges. Not long before he died, he called for his steward, to know how much money he had in his hands, who told him he had about thirty pounds. "Well then," replied he, cheerfully, "*satis viatici ad Cœlum:*" There is enough to last me to Heaven.

Erasmus, speaking of his honoured patron, in a letter to the son of Lord Mountjoy, "My letter is, I fear, an unpleasant, melancholy letter. I have this instant heard, that that incomparable treasure of virtue and goodness William

Warham has changed this life for a better. I lament my fate, not his; for he was my constant anchor. We had made a solemn compact together, that we would have one common sepulchre; and I had no apprehension but that he, though he was sixteen years older than myself, would have survived me. Neither age nor disease took away from us this excellent man, but a fatality not only to himself, but to learning, to religion, to the state, to the church. Though as Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor of England, obliged to give audience to ambassadors, and his time to suitors, yet, he had still time enough, not only to transact all his secular business, but to bestow a large portion of it upon study and religion:

HERALD.

THE office of the Herald at Arms was formerly of much greater importance than of latter times. In these periods, when the nobility maintained their family state, and stood aloof from the inferior orders of society, the pride of blood made them jealous of every innovation upon their superior rank, and the Heralds in their different districts had full employment in tracing the pretensions of those, who possessing wealth, were anxious to enrol themselves amongst the ancient aristocracy.

The College of Heralds was first es-

HERALD.

Pub. by R. Ackermann, London

tablished by the usurper Richard III. and its privileges subsequently augmented in the reign of Edward VI.

Herald's College is situated on the east side of Bennet's Hill, near St. Paul's cathedral. The building which formerly occupied its site, was called Derby House, being erected about the year 1470, by Stanley Earl of Derby, who married the mother of Henry VII.

In the year 1555, Queen Mary bestowed this house, together with its appurtenances, to the three Kings at Arms, the Heralds and Pursuivants and their successors, that they might confer together for the good government of their faculty, and for the more safe custody of their

records, to which use it has been applied ever since.

The principal officer of this college, who is the eighth great officer of the crown, an office of high antiquity, is the Earl Marshal of England. The first who held the appointment, was Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, created Earl Marshal about the year 1380, whose posterity, by the mother's side, continue to hold it. It has hence long been enjoyed by the house of Norfolk, the present Duke of that ancient family being now hereditary Earl Marshal of England.

The first King at Arms was instituted by Henry V. The principal officer of this college, is called *Garter* King at

Arms, whose business it is to attend at the instalment of knights of that illustrious order, and formerly was deputed to carry the garter to foreign princes, who were elected members of that fraternity of royal and noble knights. He was also to marshal the solemnities of coronations, royal and noble funerals, to proclaim war and peace, and in days of chivalry, to proclaim challenges, and was commissioned on many important trusts by virtue of his office.

The three Kings at Arms are, Garter, Clarencieux, and Norroy. Garter's office is the most important. The others are denominated Provincial Kings at Arms. Clarencieux, so called from the Duke of Clarence, by whose means his office was

first instituted. His office was to marshal solemnities of funerals of those of rank inferior to peers, southward from the river Trent. Norroy was appointed to the same office, northward of the Trent.

The six heralds are designated, Lancaster, Chester, Windsor, Somerset, York, Richmond. There were also, Bath, King at Arms, who attended at the creation of knights of that order, Lion, King at Arms for Scotland, and Ulster, King at Arms for Ireland.

The Pursuivants were designated, Blue-mantle, Portcullis, Rouge Croix, Rouge Dragon. To whom were added, Mowbray herald, Blanch Lyon, and Rouge Rose.

The old Herald's College, being destroyed by the memorable fire of London, in the year 1666, the members transferred their office to Exeter Change, in the Strand, and subsequently to Arundel House, until the present college was built; since which the society have conducted their business there.

The chief employment of the Heralds at this day, and indeed of the whole college, is to trace the genealogies of families, record new grants of armorial bearings, attend on all high public solemnities, as coronations, installations, &c. &c.

The Kings at Arms were formerly created by the sovereign, with great solemnity, upon some high festival; but since the manifold ceremonies used at the cre-

ation of Peers have been discontinued, the Kings at Arms have been created by the Earl Marshal, by virtue of the sovereign's warrant. Upon this occasion, the ceremony instituted was, that after taking the prescribed oath, wine is to be poured upon his head, out of a gilt cup, with a cover; his title is then pronounced, and he is invested with a tabart, or outer coat, made of the royal arms richly embroidered in their proper colours, upon velvet, of silk; a collar of SS, with two portcullis's of silver gilt, a gold chain, with a badge of his office; and the Earl Marshal places on his head the crown of a King at Arms, which formerly resembled a ducal coronet; but since the period of the restoration of

Charles II. it has been adorned with an imitation of the leaves of the oak, in memory of that king's escape in the wood of Boscobel, and circumscribed with, "*Miserere mei Deus secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.*"

Garter, has also a mantle of crimson satin, as an officer of the order; with a white rod or sceptre, with the sovereign's arms on the top, which he bears in the presence of the sovereign; and he is sworn in a chapter of the garter, the sovereign investing him with the ensigns of his office.

The Kings at Arms are distinguished from each other, by their respective badges, which they may wear at all times, either suspended by a gold chain, or a

ribbon, Garter's being blue, and the provincial king's purple.

The superior importance of the office of Garter, as formerly maintained, is evident in the creation of the appointment. He was created by Henry V. as stated before, for the service of the most noble order of the Garter, and for the dignity of that order, he was made sovereign, with the office of arms, over all the other officers subject to the crown of England, by the name of Garter, King of Arms of England. By the constitution of his office, he must be a native of England, and a gentleman bearing arms.

To him belongs the correction of arms, and all ensigns of arms usurped, or borne unjustly; and the power of granting

arms to deserving persons, and supporters to the nobility and knights of the Bath. It is also his privilege to go next before the sword in all solemn processions, none interposing except the Earl Marshal; to administer the oath to all the officers of arms; to have a habit like the registrar of the order; with Baron's service in the court, and lodgings in Windsor castle; he bears his white rod, with a banner of the ensigns of the order thereon, before the sovereign: when any lord enters the parliament chamber, it is his post to assign him his place, according to his dignity and degree.

There is belonging to the Herald's College, a library containing many invaluable manuscripts, which happily escaped the

destructive fire of London; amongst others certain folio volumes, describing the funeral ceremonies of many of the kings and the nobility, rendered still more valuable by original drawings of the various persons of their extensive household establishments, and others, who formed the processions in their proper costumes, together with the hearses, biers, carriages horses of honour, &c. which are invaluable records of the customs of the past ages, and most interesting documents for the research of the historian, the antiquary, or the man of letters.

The gentlemen of this college, have from age to age formed an agreeable and social fraternity amongst themselves, the building, which forms a quadrangle, being

divided into apartments, which are allotted to the members, many of whom, having been men of letters, have contributed to the public stock of curious historical information. The same benefits to literature have also been derived from certain of the living members, amongst others, the recent biographical sketches, accompanying a splendid work of British portraits, from the pen of Edmund Lodge, Esq. a gentleman whose researches have added considerably to this delightful species of literary inquiry.

Amongst the ancients of this fraternity, who have largely contributed to the honours of this college, is William Camden, Clarencieux, King at Arms, one of the most illustrious men of his age, born in the City of

London, May 2, 1551. His "*Britannia*," being a "History of the Ancient Inhabitants of Britain, their Origin, Manners, and Laws," which appeared in 1586 in Latin. His Remains and other works, will remain lasting records of his great learning and superior talent. He founded an historical lecture at Oxford, was universally respected at home, and was designated by foreigners, the *Pausanias* of England. This great man died, Nov. 9th, 1623, and was interred in Westminster Abbey.

Elias Ashmole, another distinguished member of this college, being appointed to the office of Windsor Herald by his Majesty King Charles the Second, an honour which he obtained a few days

after his majesty's restoration. To the philosophical and antiquarian researches of this learned gentleman we owe many valuable works; his History of the Order of the Garter alone will preserve his literary fame to future ages.

The Ashmolean museum at Oxford was founded by him, which contains a vast collection of curious manuscripts, books, coins, and other valuable antiquities. This collection, however, would have been much more valuable and extensive, had not a fatal accident deprived him and the world of science of a considerable part of his treasure. A fire broke out on the 26th January, 1679, in the next chamber to Mr. Ashmole's, by which he lost a noble library, with a collection of nine thou-

sand coins, which he had been many years in collecting, and at a vast expence: by this calamity, too, was destroyed an invaluable repository of ancient seals, charters, and other antiquities and curiosities; fortunately, his own manuscripts, and his most valuable gold medals, escaped destruction, being then at his dwelling at South Lambeth.

Mr. Ashmole having served King Charles 1st, both in a civil and military capacity, he was most graciously received by the king his son at the restoration; and in 1672, on presenting his book on the Institution, Laws, and Ceremonies of the Garter to his majesty, he granted him a privy seal for £400, out of the custom on paper.

Mr. Ashmole was born at Litchfield, in Staffordshire, May 23d, 1617, and died May 18th, 1692. He was interred in Lambeth church.

YEOMAN GUARD.

THIS splendid corps was first raised by King Henry the Seventh, for the protection of his person, and at its first establishment consisted of fifty archers; they were termed *Yeomen* from being selected from that class of his subjects immediately below the gentry. The forming of this guard, though only composed of so small a number, excited the jealousy of the public, and the secret murmurs of those more particularly about the court, who considered it an innovation upon that good faith which a people, proud of their liberties, thought becoming their prince, who owed it to his people to confide in their loyalty.

YEOMAN GUARD.

Pub. by Ackermann, Lon.

Henry the Eighth, his son and successor, a prince who delighted in pageantry and splendour, augmented the number of this corps, which was composed of men of the largest stature, and grandest person; he was so proud of this body, that he frequently assumed the dress, and enjoyed many a midnight scene of revelry, disguised in the garb of a Yeoman of his own royal guard.

Under the short and inauspicious reign of his daughter Mary, the number of this corps was again increased; less however to add splendour to her court, than to preserve her person, and that of her royal partner, the no less gloomy and bigotted Philip of Spain. In the old wood cuts, which depict the burning of the protestant

martyrs, the victims to the infuriated zealotry of her dark reign, the Yeoman guard is represented, with his broad shoulders, and tall partizan; at this fearful period, the corps numbered one hundred and forty; one hundred of whom relieved each other on duty at the palace where the gloomy court was held, and forty, called Yeomen warders, kept guard in the Tower of London.

The same number continued during the reign of her great successor, England's maiden queen, a princess whose love of pageantries was no less than that of her royal sire's. In many prints, and writings, descriptive of the "royal progresses," this corps make a conspicuous figure.

King James the First maintained the

same corps, and so did the ill-fated sovereign, his son, Charles the First. In a curious and interesting picture, painted for this great encourager of the fine arts, and still in the royal collection at Hampton Court, is a representation of the king and queen Henrietta, dining in public, a custom which on certain days was continued from remote times, and only discontinued in the last reign, are to be seen at the end of the royal apartment, two of the yeomen's guard, with their partisans, or halberts, crossed, to keep back the crowd, who are pressing forward to gratify their rude curiosity rather too near to the royal table. These old servants of the household, however, having lived to see the tragedy which deprived them of their

royal master, were disbanded by the commonwealth which succeeded, and the corps was not re-embodied, until the period of the restoration, when they were again seen in their wonted splendor, in the guards chambers of Windsor, St. James', and Whitehall.

Formerly, and not long after the establishment of this guard, one half the number were horsemen. It was part of their duty to attend the sovereign when he took the field. A part of the corps attended Henry VIII. in his famed expedition to the continent, and contributed, no doubt, to maintain the prevalent notion abroad, of the sterling, beef-eating, *bonhommie* of the English yeoman; for the bluff *Harry Tudor*, characteristically

supported the appearance of this well-fed corps.

How and when the yeoman guard acquired the fitting cognomen, *Beef-eaters*, is not settled by the curious inquirers in these matters; though some have asserted that it originated in the French word, *buffettier*, from their originally being stationed by virtue of their office, to guard the *buffet*, at royal banquets. However this may be, the general opinion has been, that there having been maintained for them, a long oaken-table under the colonade, in the ambassador's court, St. James'; whereon, from age to age, roast beef, plum-pudding, and other good cheer was to be daily seen smoking at one o'clock

that this diurnal hospitality procured for them the potent title—Beef-eaters.

The present number is one hundred, who do duty at St. James' alternately. The yeoman warders at the Tower of London, though wearing the same dress, with the exception of the carbine belt, are now a separate body, whose magnanimous office, appears chiefly to be, which they perform with officious rudeness, to interrupt the passage of strangers, whatever be their condition or quality, and to decoy them to see one of those public sights, at an expence, which provokes foreigners to stigmatise the nation, and the natives subject to such extortion, to murmur that such abuses are allowed.

Six of this guard, by ancient prescription, are termed Yeoman-Hangers, and two Yeoman Bed-goers, these had charge of the king's camp equipage when he took the field; there are also, a captain lieutenant, ensign, four exons, and eigh Yeoman ushers.

The Yeoman Hangers, had the care of the tapestry hangings, belonging to the royal apartments; which in former times were removed from one palace, or royal residence to another, when the sovereign and his court changed quarters. The two Yeoman Bed-goers, had charge of the royal bedding. Among other curious customs appertaining to the court, in days remote, was that of these Yeomen Bed-goers preparing the bed royal, in the

presence of a superior officer, when prayers were said, at the ceremony of making the bed, and two of these stout guards, tumbled and tossed upon the bedding, "might and main," to prevent any missiles, or other mischief being secreted therein.

The dress of the Yeomen is one of the very few costumes of olden times still retained; for it has undergone very little alteration from the time of its first institution. Up to the middle of the last century, the whole dress, including the stockings, was red; but, owing to some satirical remarks upon the corps, wherein they were compared to boiled lobsters, the king ordered them to wear white stockings. His present majesty, however, in

the changes that were introduced, in the magnificent ceremonies at his coronation, renewed the red stockings, which, with the adoption of the white ruff, and the large white gauntlets, have restored the appearance of this guard, to the gorgeous splendour which it displayed in the age of Queen Elizabeth.

A pleasing spectacle is yet remembered, in which this band of yeomen were seen to great advantage, namely, in their late majesties visits to the theatres of Drury-lane, Covent-garden, and the Opera-house; who, seated in their sedans, followed by the maids of honour, also in their sedans, with the royal footmen bearing flaming flambeaux, were guarded

by the tall yeomen, bearing on their shoulders their Spanish partisans.

One of the most interesting and pictorial sights yet remaining, and which associates more than any other with the household splendour of the days of yore, is derived from a peep into the guard chambers at St. James's Palace on the morning of a public drawing-room; there, all clad in full costume, may be seen groups of these tall servants, waiting as of old, in spacious apartments, whose walls are decorated with ancient armour, pikes, guns, swords, daggers, pistols, &c. forming a picture of a guard chamber, such as is described by Froissart, and others, who lived and wrote in the romantic days of chivalry.

The last service abroad, to which this guard was appointed, occurred when his Royal Highness William Duke of Cumberland, uncle of our revered late sovereign, took a command in the confederate army in Flanders. Broughton, of pugilistic memory, being one of that corps, attended the prince, in the capacity of yeoman hanger. On the appearance of the French army, which on a fine morning was drawn up on the field, his Royal Highness called his favourite, Broughton, and familiarly demanded, "what he thought of that formidable host?" "Think, and please your Royal Highness," replied the confident Englishman, "why, I think, I could beat every man of them, with a breakfast between."

FIREMAN.

The first establishment of a Fire-office, one of the most beneficial institutions that ever did honour to civilization, occurred about the year 1682; the projectors of which opened policies of insurance from risque by fire, at their office at the Rainbow Coffee-house Fleet-street, under the title of the Phœnix, whose undertakers for 30s. paid them in hand, insured £100 for seven years, and so in proportion for larger sums. For the payment of losses by fire, they established a fund. These employed several men, who wore liveries and badges, to assist in extinguishing fires, wherever they might happen within

FIREMAN.

certain circuit from the office. The first undertaker was Dr. Nicholas Barbone.

The Friendly Society-office, in Palsgrave-court, without Temple Bar was the next office; but the first that insured from fire by mutual contribution; this was established in 1684. The sole projector was the ingenious Henry Spelman, Esq. who, with William Hale, Esq., undertook, for sixteen pence per cent. per annum, paid down, and 6s. 8d. more deposited in hand, to secure the payment of the contribution to fires that might happen in the society, to insure £100. for seven years on a brick building, and in proportion for other sums: for the payment of which losses, and accounting for the deposit, there were funds settled in land.

In 1698, the Hand in Hand Fire-office was first established, which opened an office in Angel-court, nearly opposite St. Sepulchre's church, Snow Hill. This was also for the insurance of houses from fire. Every insurer was to sign a deed of settlement, of mutual agreement to insure each other; so that every subscriber, admitted into the joint partnership, became an equal sharer in the profits and loss, in proportion to their respective insurances.

The conditions of insurance, in this well constituted company, were, to pay 2s. per cent. premium, and 10s. deposit, on brick houses, and double those sums on timber houses; limiting one single policy to the sum of £2000.

The business of this office was managed

by twenty-four directors, who were chosen by the persons insured, by rotation, and to serve the office three years, without any salary, or pecuniary reward: And the office engaged to keep in its service thirty-five fire-men, who were protected from the impress service, annually clothed, and to wear a silver badge, bearing the symbol of the company—two hands joined, and over them a crown.

The increasing wealth and population of the city of London, and the general prosperity of the empire, have given birth to many other similar companies, who, availing themselves of the experience of each other, have established these institutions upon principles so stable, universally beneficial, equitable and just, that every

species of property may now be insured against the losses consequent upon a conflagration, at an expence so trifling, that no prudent person will neglect to secure his estate by insurance.

The fire-men are selected by the different companies, from among the Thames watermen, and have ever been remarkable for their steadiness, and intrepidity in their vocation.

Of late years, the principal Fire-offices have added to their establishments a most useful corps, entitled the fire patrol, who walk about their respective districts, and on the appearance of a fire in a building, being provided with strong pick-axes, and iron crow-bars, break their way into the premises, and not unfrequently by tearing

down the parts on fire, stop the progress of the flames, and save not only the immediate house, but a whole neighbourhood from conflagration.

Each office has, at convenient stations, one or more engines for extinguishing fires, which are machines that force water through a long metal tube with vast force, and to a considerable height; owing to the skilful management of these machines many a furious fire, which threatens destruction to the house in flames, and all the surrounding premises, is stayed in its progress, and utterly extinguished. To these engines is attached many yards of leather pipe, or hose, so that the principal engineer, can ass through narrow passa-

ges, with the brazen pipe, to which the water thus conducted is forced upon the back premises, with the greatest advantage.

These engines, however, did not originate with the fire-offices; there were parish engines, which were brought forth at the fire of London, in 1666; but, as though it had been predestined that the old metropolis was not to be saved, everything seemed to conspire to render them of little or no use.

Of this memorable fire, the following curious particulars are from the pen of a spectator of that awful event.

"Of this dreadful fire," says the author, "there were many concurrent occasions.

"First the drunkenness, or supine negligence of the baker and his servants, in whose house it began.*

"Next, the dead of the night, between one and two of the clock after midnight, when some were wearied by working, others filled with drink,—all in a dead sleep.

"Thirdly, the dead time of the week, being Saturday night, when traders were retired to their country-houses, and none but maid-servants or young apprentices left to look to the city houses.

* It was a singular coincidence, that the great fire of 1666, should have commenced at *Pudding Lane*, two hundred feet east of the monument, and should have ended at Pie Corner at so great a distance, being beyond Smithfield to the west.

"Fourthly, the dead time of the year, being then the long vacation, on the 2nd of September, when tradesmen were generally abroad in the country, some in the remotest parts of England, to fetch in their debts.

"Fifthly, the closeness of the buildings in that place, facilitating the progress of the fire, and hindering the usual remedy, which was by *engines to shoot water*.

"Sixthly, the matter of buildings thereabouts, which was generally wooden, and of old timber.

"Seventhly, the long continued drought of the preceding summer, even to that day, which had so dried the timber that it was never more apt to take fire.

"Eighthly, the matter of wares in those

parts, which were the greatest magazines, and store-houses of the city; of oils, pitch, tar, rosin, wax, butter, brimstone, hemp, cordage, cheese, wine, brandy, sugars, &c.

"Ninthly, an east-wind, the driest of all others, that had continued long before, and then did blow very strongly.

"Tenthly, the unexpected failing of the water, the Thames water-tower, near to the place where the fire began, then being out of order, and burnt down immediately after the beginning of the fire, so that most water pipes were soon dry.

"Lastly, an unusual negligence at first, and a confidence of easily quenching the fire on a sudden, changed into a general consternation and despondency; all people chusing rather by flight to save their

goods, than by a vigorous opposition to save their houses, and the city."

The costume of the Firemen, with little alteration, that worn by Watermen, is the same that has distinguished them from others, for the last two centuries, or more. They have each a jacket and breeches, of a colour belonging to their respective offices, as dark blue, for the Sun-firemen, crimson for the Phœnix-men, pea-green, and other colours; which, with their various badges, and fire-caps, made of thick leather, somewhat of the helmet shape, and bound with bars of metal, have a pictorial appearance.

The Firemen are stimulated to the greater exertion, by liberal rewards bestowed on them by the directors of their

respective companies, and there is a manly competition amongst the body generally, as to whose engine shall be first at a fire, and more particularly whose shall project the water with the strongest current, to the greatest height.

Until of late years, the Bridewell boys, a fraternity of bold city apprentices, who wore coarse dark blue jackets, trowsers of the same material, and white hats, prided themselves upon the superiority of their engine at a fire. These daring striplings were generally first, and no engine was worked with a more rapid or regular stroke than theirs.

LIFE-BOAT.

Among the many useful contrivances and ingenious discoveries of modern times, few are entitled to more praise, than the invention of the Life-boat; a vessel so admirably constructed for the important purposes for which it is designed, that the name of its projector should be perpetuated to the latest posterity.

To a maritime nation, like England, whose surrounding seas are covered with ships, outward and homeward bound, from the mighty man of war, to the merchant brig, all alike exposed to the sudden storms, which are so frequent to its

LIFE BOAT.

Pub by R. Ackermann

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climate, added to its dangerous and complicated navigation, boats of this structure are most fitting; for, during certain seasons of the year, scarcely a week passes, without one or more wrecks happening upon our coasts, and sometimes many occur within four and twenty hours, within sight of each other, in spite of good seamanship, and all the precaution of a watchful pilot and steady crew.

The intrepid spirit of our pilots, and their crews, in going out to succour a vessel in distress, has long excited the admiration of all foreign nations. The coolness and courage with which the Deal boatmen and others have launched out, daring the furious elements, to snatch a brother sailor from the deep, is known

to all; but, alas! how many an intrepid sailor has sacrificed his own life, in his generous attempt to save another in the moment of peril! how oft the same wave has engulphed those who cried for assistance, and those who ventured to afford it, even in the presence of a crowded strand, where humanity stood appalled, witnessing a catastrophe, that mocked all mortal aid.

It was a circumstance of this awful character which was the origin of the Life-boat. In September 1789, the Adventurer of Newcastle was stranded on the Herd sand, on the south side of Tynemouth haven, in the midst of tremendous breakers; and all the crew dropped from the rigging one by one, in the presence of

thousands of spectators, not one of whom could be prevailed upon, by any reward, to venture out to her assistance, in any boat or coble of the common construction.

On this occasion the gentlemen of South Shields called a meeting of the inhabitants, at which a committee was appointed, and premiums were offered for plans of a boat, which should be the best calculated to brave the dangers of the sea.

Many proposals were offered, but the preference was unanimously given to that of Mr. Greathead, who was immediately appointed to build a boat at the expence of the committee.

This boat went off, on the 30th January, 1790; and so well has it answered, and indeed exceeded every expectation, in the

most tremendous broken sea, that since that period some hundred lives have been saved at the entrance of the Tyne alone, who without its aid must have been lost, and in no instance has it been known to fail.

The principle of the boat appears to have been suggested to Mr. Greathead's observant mind, by the following simple fact.—Take a spheroid, and divide it into quarters; each quarter is elliptical, and nearly resembles the half of a wooden bowl, having a curveture with projecting ends; this thrown into the sea, or broken water, cannot be upset, or lie with the bottom upwards.

The length of the boat which he so ingeniously constructed, is thirty feet;

the breadth, ten feet; the depth, from the top of the gunwale to the lower part of the keel in midships, three feet three inches. The gunwale fixed to the outside, is three inches thick. The sides from the under-part thereof, project along the whole length of the sheer, being twenty-one feet six inches on each side, to a depth of sixteen inches downwards, and cased with cork, four inches thick, bound with slips of copper. The thwarts, or seats, are five in number, double banked; consequently the boat can be rowed with ten oars. These are fixed with iron holes, and rope grommels, so that the rowers can pull either way. The boat is steered with an oar at each end; and the steering oar is much longer than the pulling oars.

The general structure of the boat is so ably contrived, though difficult to describe, as to bid defiance to those accidents to which every other boat is liable, on such perilous service. Many instances are recorded of its utility; amongst others, the following is one of the first proofs of its success.

A committee of the House of Commons, in consequence of a petition from its inventor, in 1802, proceeded to examine Ralph Hillery, a seaman, who stated, that he had been forty-five years at sea, in the Greenland and coal trade, and resided at Shields. About three years ago, he was in the Northumberland Life-boat, built by Mr. Greathead, the first time she went off to the relief of the sloop Edinburgh. This

vessel was seen to go on the Herd sands, a mile and a half from shore; she was brought to an anchor before the Life-boat got to her, and she continued striking the ground so heavily, that she would not have held together ten minutes longer, had they not got to her; they made her cut her cable, and then took seven men out of her, and brought them on shore. The sea at that time was so tremendously high, that no other boat whatever could have lived in it.

He was then asked, whether he had been out in the Life-boat on any other occasion? to which he replied, that he had been five times out in her to the relief of different ships; from one ship they saved fifteen men, and in every instance,

when he, the witness, was in the boat, they saved the whole of the crews of the wrecked ships. Besides the times he himself has been in the boat, he has seen her go off scores of times, and never saw her fail in bringing off such of the crews as stayed by the ships. But many times, part of the crews of the vessels wrecked, have taken to their own boats, and have been drowned by the boats upsetting; whilst the remainder of the crews that continued on board, have been saved by the Life-boat. And the witness declared his conviction, that no other boat that ever he saw, could have gone from the shore, and saved the crews at the time the Life-boat went.

The next instance we shall record is

no less creditable to the intrepid humanity of the projector, than to his talents as an able mechanic.

The Bee of Shields, John Houston master, having put to sea in threatening weather, was soon after driven back, and in a very heavy sea taking Tynemouth bar, struck the ground, and unshipped her rudder. Completely unmanageable, she drifted, and was driven on the Black Middens. They who have witnessed the tremendous sea which breaks on the north part of this harbour, in a south easterly wind, may form a conception of the dreadful situation of the crew. In the midst of rocks, where the sea rolls mountains high, so as frequently to obscure the ship, and where any vessel might be

expected immediately to go to pieces; their only refuge from being swept into the gulf, was, to climb up into the shrouds, which the captain, and six men and boys, the whole crew, immediately effected. Their danger attracted an immense number of spectators, from both North and South Shields—all were alarmed for their safety. The making use of the Life-boat was, by most people, thought to be impossible. So confident was Mr. Greathead, however, of the Life-boat being able to live in any sea, if properly navigated, that he, without hesitation, and with the greatest alertness, volunteered his services to bring off the men from the brig. The Northumberland Life-boat was promptly manned, and

some South Shield pilots, and the intrepid adventurers, reached the vessel without much difficulty, and picked off the men from the shrouds, almost perishing with cold and fatigue. One man, too eager to enter the boat, fell into the breakers, but was immediately recovered. When the whole crew were in the boats, they rowed towards the shore, and in less than an hour from the time she was launched, did she return in safety to South Shields, without a single accident.

It was further stated, on the examination, that, in the event of the Life-boat filling with water, she would continue upright, and would not founder, as boats of a common construction do. That in the same year, 1802, she came on shore

with a ship's crew, so full of water, that it ran over on each side; the sea had broken several of her oars, and the informant believed, that no boat of any other construction could have brought the crew on shore, so filled with water.

The following are among the rewards bestowed on the meritorious inventor:

From the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, five guineas; Royal Humane Society, a gold medal; Corporation of the Trinity House, 100 guineas; Society of Arts, 50 guineas, and a gold medallion; a grant of £1200 from the government, for his invention; the subscribers at Lloyd's, the sum of 100 guineas, and £2000. for building Life-boats on different parts of these king-

doms; and, in 1794, Mr. Greathead received a very valuable diamond ring, from the Emperor of Russia, for his invaluable invention; which should be adopted indeed, in every maritime city or town in the world.

SHRIMPER.

There are no characters too mean, nor are there any useful occupations too unimportant, for the observation of the painter, the poet, or the sculptor, who seek their studies amongst the most graceful, or the most humble models which nature presents, as the picturesque, properly so termed in its largest extent, embraces the beau-ideal of the gods and goddesses of heathen mythology, built upon the most perfect examples of living forms, and descending to imitate nature, unadorned, as found either in the innocent simplicity of the pastoral life, the ferocious independence of the savage, haunting the

Pub by R.Ackermann

SHRIMPER.

tion administers to the delights of the table, furnishing the rich and the hospitable with a dish of dainty fare. The diminutive fry, which is the object of their pursuit, are not only shrimps, but prawns, which when in prime season, and well boiled, form not only a delightful show, their brilliant red coats being garnished with green parsley; but a most delicious and savoury *entremet*, fit for the board of Apicius himself.

The shrimper takes her net, and venturing into the sea, remains not unfrequently amidst the breakers for hours in succession, scouring the shingle or sand with her net, which is bent, and at the end of a long pole, as described in the print. The produce of her labour in the

season, when the watering places are crowded with visitors from the metropolis, and other parts inland, are disposed of on the spot. At other seasons, they are sent to the London market, and are frequently sold at a considerable profit.

The "Cries of London" is a theme that has long exercised the pen of the poet and the antiquarian—To the latter it has of late been a subject of interesting inquiry, for in the music of these itinerants has been perpetuated, perhaps, from age to age, the same airs that sounded in the ears even of the Anglo Saxon possessors of this soil.

In many cries, the imagination lives again in the days of our infancy. In the simple melody of the voice of the *primose-girl*, old age seems to be carried back

to a green spot in the spring of life. What pleasing associations are revived in the cry of *sweet violets;* and in *hot-cross-buns*, the parent surrounded by his own children, thinks with fond melancholy affection of his father and mother, his sisters and brothers, in the days of innocence and peace.

Doubtless, these and many other *cries*, are as old as the first periods of civilization, and may be regarded as perpetual remnants of the national customs of the island. The violet was a lover's offering, from the remotest time; and how many ages since, did the good housewife strew *sweet lavender* in the linen press, and the obsequious sacristan perfume the priest's vestments with the same odoriferous plant.

Old chairs to mend, another mur-

cry, may fairly be dated to as remote a period as that, when the aboriginal rush-bottomed seats, beginning to wear, offended the eye of the tidy matron, and *knives to grind, scissars to grind*, may by the same parity, be held coeval with the use of these useful instruments. How long since this never-ceasing *trade*, or more properly *calling*, of that of the itinerant tinker, with his budget, and travelling forge, crying "*old pots and kettles to mend*," may have been engrossed by that strange, wandering tribe, the *Gipsies*; even the learned Mr. Dowse, (with whose researches in these matters who can compete?) pretends not to tell.

THE MILK-WOMAN.

It would be vain, perhaps, to endeavour to trace the antiquity of the occupation of serving milk at the door of the inhabitants of the city of London. The custom of the metropolitan milk maids dancing around the garland, on May-day, however, is spoken of as an old usage in the times of Charles II. and we may infer from *Ritson's Customs of England*, a work published by a foreign resident here in the time of William and Mary, that they had long been used to dance with a small garland borne upon the head; a print of a smart ass, thus exhibiting herself, may be found in that very interesting work, which is

MILK GIRL.

Pub. by R. Ackermann. London.

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now become scarce, and only to be found in choice libraries.

Since this period, these garlands had grown to a size sufficiently large, to be borne about, until of late, upon poles, carried by two stout Hibernian chairmen, and exhibited from door to door, attended by music, and groups of dancing nymphs, hired for the occasion. The retailers of milk received May-day offerings from their customers. These garlands were erected in a conical form, six or seven feet in height, and ornamented with a profusion of artificial flowers, surrounding valuable pieces of plate, the whole being tastefully piled, with a sort of architectural arrangement. Many of these garlands contained a thousand or fifteen hundred

pounds worth of superb plate, as salvers, candelabra, dishes, vases, &c., richly chased, hired for the occasion, of the goldsmiths. The custom, however, like many others derived from olden times, is grown out of use.

The venerable Stowe, in his Annals of London, mentions, that when he was a boy, he used to fetch milk from a nunnery on the north of Cheapside, within the city, and at two quarts for a farthing, adding, such was the cheapness of this necessary article within his memory. He does not inform us of the charge for the same quantity at the time of his penning the remark.

In the Strand, and Holborn, however, at this period we may presume, the inhabi-

tants would procure milk from the Dairy, as the cows in Queen Elizabeth's days, are represented in Norden's plan of London and environs, grazing in the fields, immediately behind their houses. As these parts west of the city became crowded with houses, the custom of retailing milk at each door became necessary, as every new street intrenched upon the meadow land adjacent, and the demand increased, until the *good will* of an established milk-walk, in a populous neighbourhood, became a disposeable property, which in some instances have sold for from fifty to an hundred and fifty pounds.

Of late years, such has been the increased demand for this wholesome commodity, that the cow-keeper who furnished

the milk to the retailers have generally been very opulent—some indeed have acquired immense fortunes by their cow-farms.

The cows kept for the purpose of supplying the metropolis with milk, are of a large size, and known by the name of Holderness cattle (from the district of that name in East Yorkshire,) though they do not now all come from that district, but generally from the most perfect breeds of this stock, in Yorkshire, or the neighbouring counties. The Holderness breed is supposed to give the largest quantity of milk.

Some years since, before the ground was occupied by the vast accumulation of buildings, it is asserted, on the authority

of Mr. Baird, that round Hackney, Islington, Paddington, and several miles thereabouts, the cow-keepers engrossed every acre of ground that could be procured; some of whom possessed remarkably large stocks of cows. One of them, Mr. West, of Islington, had on different farms, contiguous to each other, nearly eight hundred.*

These cows, even in summer, besides being turned out to grass, are regularly fed with grains, which though the quantity of milk is thereby increased, by no means improves its quality—thus artificially is this great metropolis supplied with some necessaries.

* Eight hundred cows, producing £30 each, is £24,000 a year.

The general allowance is forty-five quarters of grains per week, to every twenty-five cows. They are given them twice a day, and they have besides two meals of turnips and hay.

The number of cows, on the authority of Mr. Ford, then kept by the London cow-keepers, in the county of Middlesex amounted to about 7200; and in the counties of Kent and Surrey, to 1300. Divided as follows.

MIDDLESEX.

Tothill-fields and Knightsbridge....	205
Edgware-road	550
Paddington, Tottenham-court-road, Battle-bridge, Gray's Inn Lane, Bagnigge-wells, and Islington....	3950
Carried over	4705

Brought forward	4705
Hoxton	150
Ratcliff	205
Mile-end	406
Limehouse	180
Poplar	70
Bethnal-green	200
Hackney	600
Bromley	160
Bow	100
Shoreditch and Kingsland	200
Old cows	214
KENT.	
Deptford, Rotherhithe, Greenland-Dock, New-cross and Bermondsey	681
SURREY.	
Lambeth, South Lambeth, Kennington-Bridge, Coldharbour, Peckham, Peckham Rye, Newington, and Camberwell	619
Total,	8500

Each cow, on an estimated average, gives nine quarts of milk per day, equal to per annum 3285 quarts; part of this is allowed for calves. The medium price of seventeen-pence for eight quarts, the sum then paid by the retail venders of milk, made the produce on these 8500 cows amount to the sum of £250,750 per annum.

The consumers, at this period, twenty-five years ago, paid three-pence halfpenny per quart to the retailer. If these had sold the milk pure and unadulterated at this price, it would have yielded them a profit of £64. 14s. per cent. Making allowance for short measure and adulteration, the profit remaining for labour, &c. was 100 per cent. On the whole it was

calculated, that the retail venders of milk divided amongst them, the sum of £240,833; and the sum paid for milk in London and its environs amounted to £481,666 annually.

BILL-STICKER.

THE main prosperity of a civilized country, according to the wisest authorities, is derived from finding employment for every class of the people. "Idleness," saith the adage, "is the root of all evil." When a populous country is busily engaged in the various occupations of industry, the great machine of government goes on smoothly; on the contrary, when employment is wanting, vices and discontent prevail, and it is then that a state may be said to be in danger.

The many wants of society, which are consequent upon a rapidly improving

BILL SYKES

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state of civilization, so far from being a legitimate subject for complaint, whatever certain gloomy speculators may insist upon, in their favourite reveries, are blessings to the community. Amongst other employments of late have provided for numerous families, that might else have sought relief as parish paupers, that of the Bill-sticker has increased in the ratio of the general demand for all things, which custom has rendered necessary, either for comfort, or amusement. The sums annually expended upon the placarding system, has been a great source of wealth to many thousands of industrious persons, in every part of this busy empire.

The Bill-sticker is paid a certain sum

per thousand, or per hundred, according to the size of the placards delivered to him by his employer. His stock in trade consists of a tin vessel, fastened before him by a belt, to contain paste, his brush, and a long light instrument somewhat of the form of T; which he uses for sticking the placards on the wall. Thus equipped, he perambulates the streets and avenues of the town, and finding a vacant spot upon a paling or a wall, which is become a service of some difficulty, there he stops and fastens one of his placards.

What would the traders of old think, could they revisit their counting-houses, and read in the ledgers of their enterprising successors, items of ten or twenty pounds daily, for advertising their wares. Or

what would our forefathers have thought, had it been foretold, that in our day we should behold several miles of wall chalked in colossal capitals, BLACKING and BONASSUS?

Then the lottery bills, with Brobdignagian type, placarding the 30,000 pounder prizes, with every 0 thirty thousand times as large as the typographers diamond. But this is an age of wonders, and our placards and our type may increase, until, for there seems nothing too extravagant for possibility in these days of improvement, until a lottery bill may be read through a good eight feet reflector, by some astronomer in the moon.

We have already lived to see some placards seven or eight feet long, and latterly,

to over-top others, some are hoisted by the Bill-stickers eighteen or twenty feet high. Hence is verified to the very *letter*, that "Those who run may read."

If things proceed thus, said a lively typographer, we must have a new nomenclature for type. We therefore suggest the following, subject to correction. The largest to be designated *Orbus*, the world, then graduating by the largest creatures thereon, as *Kraken*, *Whale*, *Leviathan*, *Elephant*, *Hippopotamus*, *Bonassus*, *Alderman*, *Beef-eater*, &c. By which an order might be sent per post, from York to London :—

"Messrs. Shackell and Arrowsmith, please to set up, and send me proof by coach the placard as follows, General

Election, in *Kraken* capitals, the members address, in *Beef-eater*, Catholic Emancipation, in *Bonassus*, Chairing the members, in *Elephant*, Liberty in *Leviathan*, and so on;" then would things be clearly understood, and executed to the satisfaction of all parties.

The business of placarding naturally began to thrive, at the period when so many extraordinary exhibitions were soliciting notice, through the aid of the press. The following catalogue of scraps, will serve to show the taste of the town, and the prevalence of seeing extraordinary sights, in the days of our great great grandfathers.

At Bartholomew fair, "You will see a wonderful girl of ten years of age, walk

up a sloping rope, driving a wheel-barrow behind her; also, you will see the great Italian Master, who not only passes all that has yet been seen on the tight rope, but he dances without a pole, upon the head of a mast as high as the booth will permit, and afterwards stands upon his head, upon the same.

"You will also be entertained with the merry conceits of an Italian Scaramouche, who dances on the rope with two children, and a dog in a wheel-barrow, and a duck on his head."

In 1701, the metropolitans were also invited by placards, to see a "Tiger who had been taught to pick a fowl's feathers from his body."

In April 1702, people were invited

by public advertisement to see the skeleton of a Whale, then lately caught in the Thames, which the proprietors had carefully scraped and put together in the field near King-street, Holborn. The advertisement states "that one bone of his head weighed forty hundred weight."

In 1710 "A gold ring was danced for at the Green Gate, near Lambeth Wells, and afterwards, a hat to be played for at skittles."

A Mister *Shanks*, near Lambeth-marsh, furnished forth great novelty of exhibitions in 1711, among others, the most accomplished grinners in all England were thither convoked to a "grinning match—the winner to have a gold laced

hat." The competitors were inspired to excellence by a *concert* of music.

In 1712, His Grace the Duke of Grafton, backed his running footman, the *fleetest* in the world, against the running footman of the Lord Cholmondeley, who was a better runner than he. The match was run in Hyde Park, for 500 guineas.

These exhibitions, if not very edifying, were amusing, and generally harmless. Not so the cock-matches that were publicly advertised at this period, of mains for 500 guineas by nobles, at the *west* end of the town, and by dustmen at the *worst* end, being then the fields about Bloomsbury.

Bear Baiting too flourished at Hockley in the Hole, where an affair of retributive justice occurred, that might have taught a moral lesson to the frequenters of that cave of cruelty, had they not, on seeing the print, been less human than the brutes whom they tormented for sport. Christopher Preston, keeper of the bear garden, had taught his bears everything but forgetfulness of injuries; of which he had woeful experience at an unguarded moment, for one of the enraged animals seized, and nearly devoured him, before his savage associates could come to his assistance.

What do we not daily owe to the immortal inventor of the Art of Printing? How,

our commercial forefathers contrived to announce what commodities they had on sale, in this our long famed commercial country, is difficult to discover. The bell-man of every town, we know, used to cry such new wares as arrived in the market—but how a metropolitan merchant spread a catalogue of his wares to the provincial dealer, must have been a work of difficulty indeed. Travellers to commercial houses is a modern practice, and letters in olden times travelled slow—Cross post deliveries depended upon Providence, for lanes were not unfrequently impassable for weeks. Whilst in our golden age of commerce, by virtue of the typographic art, a merchant's imports are

telegraphed all over the kingdom, in less time than a carrier's waggon in olden times crept from London to Slough.

The history of printed shop bills, placards, and general announcements, could it be composed by some industrious antiquary, would afford a great insight into the manners and customs of former days, for there is reason to believe that the custom of employing the printer for these purposes is at least two centuries old. Some few shop bills are preserved by former collectors, which are curious.

The sister of Sir Joseph Banks was an industrious collector of these typographic articles, and having made it her favourite pursuit for many years, she amassed a vast collection of shop bills, message

cards, and other ephemeral scraps, which, she bequeathed to the British Museum.

These are sufficiently numerous to fill two immense interleaved folio volumes, and amongst them are many that associate with the days that are gone. Amongst others, a shop bill with a wood-cut sign of a quarto size, which is extremely curious; it has no date, but seems to belong to the age of Charles II. Several invitation cards to parties in high life, serve to perpetuate certain usages, now long forgotten or entirely unknown. One presents the compliments of the celebrated Duchess of Queensbury to Lady ——— to a friendly party. That this means a card party, is inferred, as the back of the invitation is a court card, the knave of clubs.

A *nota bene* is added, which says, "Hoops may be dispensed with if more agreeable."

Another is certainly a curiosity, being no less than a card, filled in by the pen of *Omai*, who was brought to this country by Captain Cook, and the first of the South Sea islanders who set his foot on the British shore. The card says, Mr. *Omai* presents his respectful compliments to Sir Joseph and Lady Banks, and returns thanks for their obliging inquiries. This interesting savage had been ill.

The advertising and placarding system had arrived at its first epoch of humour, in the days of George the Second, when Garrick drew the fashionable beaux and

state of civilization, so far from being a legitimate subject for complaint, whatever certain gloomy speculators may insist upon, in their favourite reveries, are blessings to the community. Amongst other employments of late have provided for numerous families, that might else have sought relief as parish paupers, that of the Bill-sticker has increased in the ratio of the general demand for all things, which custom has rendered necessary, either for comfort, or amusement. The sums annually expended upon the placarding system, has been a great source of wealth to many thousands of industrious persons, in every part of this busy empire.

The Bill-sticker is paid a certain sum

CHIMNEY-SWEEPER.

It was whimsically remarked by a celebrated wit, that climbing-boys served double the accustomed term of apprenticeship to the art and mystery of sweeping a chimney, and that when out of their time, they were too big to work at their business!

It is well known that chimney-sweeps are bound apprentices for fourteen years, whilst to other trades, callings, or handicrafts, the usual term is seven years. To this sooty service, however, they are bound to their masters at the early age of seven, so that at the expiration of their term,

CHIMNEY SWEEPER.

UNIV. OF MIC

they have attained the legal age of manhood.

It is reasonable to suppose that the occupation of the chimney-sweeper is as old as the invention of chimneys, though we do not find any mention of this useful craft before the age of Queen Elizabeth. In former days, however, it does not appear that climbing-boys were employed in cleansing the chimneys of the soot; for in some rare old prints, which describe these itinerants, bearing about their implements, we perceive a bundle of long narrow pliable poles, which appear to have been joined together, and at the end of one is close bound a bundle of rushes, or butcher's broom, which we may suppose were thrust from the chimney top down the

flues of each chimney, as low as they would reach, and that the next operation was to thrust the same instrument up the flues in like manner.

In a most rare print of a travelling chimney-sweeper, of singular notoriety for his roguery and sottish pranks, engraved from the life, in the reign of Charles the Second, a climbing-boy is seen, like the little devil at Lincoln, peeping from the chimney top with brush and scraper in hand, crying, "Soot! soot!" This imp is represented in the back-ground of the subject.

The print represents the famed SUGAR and SACK, to which is appended a sketch of his wandering and infamous life.

Considerable public interest has been

excited of late years, touching the degraded state of climbing boys; and the condition of these children of poverty has, much to the honour of the age, more than once become the subject of parliamentary inquiry: yet, with such powerful advocates to ameliorate their condition, and the offer of rewards to the ingenious mechanic, who should invent a machine to supersede the necessity for so degrading an office, for a human being, as that of creeping up a chimney for a livelihood; yet of the many schemes projected, every one has failed of its object; and chimneys continue to be cleansed of their soot as heretofore.

It would afford consolation, however, to the humane persons who have thus

interested themselves in behalf of the climbing-boys, were it known to them, that the condition of the apprentices to this seemingly loathsome occupation, is much less disagreeable than is generally supposed; and it would be gratifying for such to know further, an incontestable fact, that few children of that miserable class, from which they are chosen, (for they are not forced into the service,) are so well fed, so well preserved from vice, or live so happily as the poor climbing-boys. Indeed, considering the very humble order to which they belong, there are no people more remarkable for good order in their families, than the industrious master chimney-sweepers.

In confirmation of this statement, which

will, doubtless, surprise many benevolent advocates for the abolition of the custom of climbing-boys, we shall relate what occurred a few years since, when the question excited general sympathy, in the vestry of St. George's, Hanover-square.

It is usual for the master chimney-sweeper to recruit his apprentices from the pauper boys at the parish poor-house, who are bound by the church-wardens and overseers by virtue of their office. In this parish, from its first establishment, it has been the custom to nominate some nobleman, or man of rank, as one of the overseers, and it has rarely happened that they have refused to accept the office. At one of these meetings, the Earl M——e attended *ex officio*, at the binding of two

boys, who being unused to the [illegible], and [illegible] by his [illegible], he determined to question all the parties concerned, and to act accordingly. The following inquiry ensued.

"Well, my little man," said his Lordship, addressing one of the children, "and so you are going to be a chimney-sweep." It should be observed both the boys had been "*upon liking*," that is, had been a fortnight on trial, amongst the climbing-boys at the premises of the master chimney-sweeper. The boy cheerfully answered, "Yes, sir." His Lordship appeared surprised, adding, "You young rogue, you will soon be sorry, if you return with your master and mistress," (for the chimney-sweeper's wife was present.)—"No, I

shan't, sir," replied the boy. "I am sure, gemmen, we do not wish to take the children against their will," said the master; "No, God forbid," added the mistress, who appeared to be a motherly, good sort of woman—"Our boys are as happy as the days are long;" and so it appeared, for his Lordship, wishing to put the matter to the proof, affected to object to the boys going into the man's service, when the little urchins began to cry, at the thought of being separated from their kind master and mistress, and their juvenile companions in the sooty trade.

"The result after the most careful inquiries into the condition of the boys who have been apprenticed to this reprobated employment has happily proved,

in our parish at least," said the officer who related these circumstances, who is one of the most respected, and oldest inhabitants of that well-governed parish, "has satisfactorily proved, that the climbing-boys are well-treated, and happy in their humble and useful calling."

CHARITY CHILDREN.

Drawn & Engraved by J. Nixon.

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CHARITY CHILDREN.

To provide parish-schools, such as are common in England, for the children of the industrious poor, may be considered both benevolent and wise. Such institutions not only relieve parents from part of the burthen of a numerous family, but by the education which such schools afford, the children are fitted for employments, which, by good conduct, may enable them to acquire means to contribute in their turn to the doing of that for others, which has been done for themselves. Indeed instances can be referred to in every parish, wherein those who

have been fed, clothed, and educated at the parish expence, have lived to make a grateful return in kind, by becoming benefactors to the very institutions to which they owed so much.

It is said, that of all the sights which were beheld by the foreign potentates who visited this country, none affected them so much as being present at St. Paul's Cathedral, on the anniversary meeting of the Charity Children under the dome of that magnificent structure. Indeed, so impressed was the Emperor Alexander with this grand national spectacle, much more becoming to a great empire, and much more fitting to a sacred temple, than the flags and other trophies of war, which swung over their heads, that on his

return to his own kingdom, this benevolent prince commanded similar institutions to be formed at St. Petersburg. May this work of mercy flourish—it would remain a monument to his memory, greater than the achievement of universal conquest.

What spectacle can be more gratifying to the philanthropist, than to behold several thousand children of both sexes, the offspring of the poor, neatly clad, seated around this vast space, uniting their youthful voices in chaunting to the praise and glory of that Almighty, who looks with benevolence on all his creatures?

The processions, too, formed annually by the Charity Children of the respective parishes, to this cathedral, is one of the most interesting sights that the metro-

polis affords. The girls, clothed in a neat and simple garb, eminently clean, with linen caps, and tippets white as the lily, an emblem of their innocence, each with a little bouquet of flowers, walking two a-breast, hand-in-hand, from their respective schools.

The boys forming separate divisions, and clad with equal neatness, each having a knot of ribbons in his cap, and bearing a willow wand. These are preceded by the school-master and school-mistresses, and the parish beadles, with their long staves, and thus they proceed to St. Paul's.

Every parish in London and Westminster, and the suburbs, maintains a certain number of boys and girls proportioned to the population and wealth of its inha-

bitants. Besides these, there are similar institutions in different parts of the metropolis; which are supported wholly, or in part, by voluntary subscriptions

To simply enumerate the different charitable institutions, which are thus supported, within the bills of mortality alone, would make a catalogue that would nearly fill one of these volumes. But if all the parish schools and other charitable foundations of this wealthy and splendid empire were to be set down, with even but a slight description of their foundations, numbers of scholars, endowments and officers, a large folio would not contain the catalogue. That country may well hope to prosper, which abounding in wealth, is most abounding in charities.

No country can enumerate so many public institutions for the relief of the poor as Great Britain, almost all of which are chiefly supported by voluntary contributions. Hence, as a late writer observes, whatever deficiencies the religious observer, or the moralist may discover, certainly the want of charity is not among the number. It is not to the metropolis alone these beneficial institutions are confined; there is not a county without its public infirmary and dispensary for supplying the afflicted poor with assistance and medicine, and almost every town has its Free-school, Charity-school, and some medical institution for the same benevolent purpose.

Among other praiseworthy institutions

for the protection of destitute children, and distressed orphans, there are two, established of late years, which do honour to the hearts of their founders. The first is the Asylum for girls, the other the Philanthropic Institution for children of each sex, both situate on the Surrey side of the metropolis.

The first owes its origin principally to the exertions of that worthy and active magistrate, the late Sir John Fielding, so long presiding at the Bow-street Police-office. This vigilant magistrate had long observed that though the laws of the kingdom provided a parish settlement for every person by birth, parentage, &c., yet many cases continually occurred, in which such settlements were difficult, if not impos-

sible to be ascertained, and therefore he, and others equally humanely disposed, were so solicitous to remove that part of the evil which exposed female children to wretchedness.

In England, it is but to project any eligible plan that may tend to forward the interests of charity, and the public become its warm supporters, and readily supply the means for its accomplishment. The institution was formed, and it has happily answered the object of its founders and patrons.

A building was in consequence erected on the Surrey side of Westminster Bridge, in the year 1758, and fitted up with suitable conveniences to receive two hundred deserted female children, who are herein

sheltered and protected from vice and want, being lodged, and supplied with food and raiment, and taught whatever can render them useful in their situation, or comfortable and happy in themselves.

Carefully instructed in the principles of religion, in reading, writing, and needle-work, and household business, they are trained to habits of industry and regularity; by which means, says an intelligent author, there is created a supply of diligent and sober domestics for the use of that public, which by its contributions has so nobly acquired a right to their services.

The particular objects of this charity

are children of soldiers, sailors, and other indigent objects, bereft of their parents, at a distance from any of their relations, or other circumstances that come within the intention of the institution. The principal feature of which was to protect those who might be left destitute of all assistance and support, at an age when they are incapable of earning a subsistence, or contending with surrounding danger.

Females of this description are in a particular manner the objects of compassion, and have also a double claim to the care of the humane and virtuous, from being not only exposed to the misery of want and idleness, but, as they advance in age,

are most liable to the solicitations of the vicious, and the consequent misery of early seduction.

The girls are employed in this Asylum to make and mend their own linen; make shirts, table linen, &c.; to do all sorts of plain needle-work, and alternately to perform the business of the house and kitchen; to which latter duty, as we have recommended to other charities, twelve are appointed weekly, according to their age and abilities, to assist the cook, to wash, iron, and get up all the linen.

All kinds of needle-work are taken in at this Asylum, and executed by the children at moderate rates.

Another charitable institution, no less creditable to the wisdom and humanity

CHARITY CHILDREN.

UNIV. OF MICH.

Engraved by Newman & Co.

CHARITY CHILDREN.

UNIV.

Drawn & Lithographed by Corbould.

CHARITY CHILDREN.

To provide parish-schools, such as are common in England, for the children of the industrious poor, may be considered both benevolent and wise. Such institutions not only relieve parents from part of the burthen of a numerous family, but by the education which such schools afford, the children are fitted for employments, which, by good conduct, may enable them to acquire means to contribute in their turn to the doing of that for others, which has been done for themselves. Indeed instances can be referred to in every parish, wherein those who

KNIFE-GRINDER.

This is another itinerant calling, the antiquity of which may be deduced, in all probability, to a period coeval with the use of scissors and knives, and it is likely, that the cry of knives to grind, scissors to grind, with the same melody, was heard many centuries ago.

The machine, however, on which these wandering handicrafts perform the useful operation of sharpening blunt instruments, has been improved within the last century, by the adoption of the larger wheel, which gives such an increased

KNIFE GRINDER.

Pub. by P. Ackermann London.

UNIV OF MIC

velocity, to the grinding stone and polishing wheel.

In an old French print, etched by *Watteau*, is a representation of a Knife-grinder, at work at his rude machine, which compared with that now so common all over this country, amongst innumerable other instances, serves to show the advantage of improved machinery in the nineteenth century.

The business of the Knife grinder, from time immemorial, until of late, was almost confined to the males of that wandering tribe, the Gipsies, who continued the trade from father to son, through many generations. Travellers have not unfrequently recognised the same family, congregated in the neigh-

bourhood of a particular wheel, in York, or still more remote counties, at one period of the year, and at London another; these Knife-grinders finding employ in each town and village, and at inns, cottages, and farms, on every road on which their inherent love of rambling led them to wander.

It is a well ascertained fact, that some of these itinerants earn more by their promiscuous employment in one day, than a ploughman by his steady labours in a week. This may readily be supposed, when the charges, which they will not abate to their employers, is considered. For grinding table-knives three shillings per dozen, carving knives fourpence each, for scissors three-pence, and

for each blade of a pen or pocket knife two-pence. Indeed, it was discovered some few years since, that so much was obtained by hawkers and pedlars, that a tax was enacted, by which these wandering mechanics and traders were compelled, as a protection, too, to resident shop-keepers and mechanics, whose business they invade, to take out a licence; which was not unreasonable, as those who kept at home, were paying scot and lot, and earning less in many instances than those whose wandering habits exempted them from taxation.

The saucy independence of these itinerants, has not unfrequently subjected them to the surveillance of the police, in

many towns; for, in proportion to the ease with which these low people obtain money disproportioned to their labour, so are they prodigal in spending it; hence, no common brawlers are more loud than common criers, and many an ale-house quarrel with these ready monied customers, has procured many a night's lodging in the round house for a Knife-grinder, and his Gipsey drab of a companion, with an additional hour's seat in the stocks, for the lordly gentleman who drives about the wheel.

As an instance of the self-consequence of one of these sturdy itinerants, we need only to relate the following, which occurred between a celebrated painter of familiar subjects and a Gipsey Knife-grin-

der, a few years since, in the neighbourhood of Hanover-square.

The painter, wishing to make a study of one of this trade, sent his servant to engage a Knife-grinder, who was crying his occupation before his door. The itinerant obeyed his call, and agreed to allow him to make a sketch of his machine, which, with the assistance of the servant, was carried up to the painting room on the first floor. He made the necessary sketch, and detained the man one hour, at the expiration of which he offered him, at the same time civilly thanking him, half-a-crown.

"Is this all you mean to give me?" inquired the Knife-grinder. "Why surely you are sufficiently paid, "returned the

painter; at the same time desiring his servant to help him down with the wheel. "Get out of the way, fellow!" exclaimed the gipsey, with insolent rage, "I want none of your help;" then scowling at the master, rejoined, "I thought you would have given me half a guinea at least"—adding with an oath, "I could have earned more than half a crown in the time. This, however, is the land of liberty."

NEWS MAN

NEWSMAN.

THE Newsman with his horn, is a character now become obsolete, whether from a recent regulation of the police, or from the absence of war, we cannot say; but the public must feel duly thankful, to whatever cause, that has spared them from the [illegible] nuisance which they have been. It is but too recent to be forgotten, that the newsmen were the greatest legal peace breakers of all the metropolitan itinerants; for the noise of the horn, one of the loudest and most dissonant that has yet been invented, was heard in all the streets, morning, noon, and

night—yea, after midnight; nor could the *peaceable* inhabitants escape this hideous trumpetting, even on the Sabbath, during the period of *war*.

These common disturbers, who usually perambulated the streets in pairs, not only blew a blast both loud and shrill on one side of the way, but chorused it on the other with rude lungs, bawling, "*Great* and *Glorious News!*" on the event of victory, or "*Bloody News*" on the event of defeat.

The history of the tricks of these Newsmen, as played off upon the credulity of John Bull, during the period of war, has often afforded a subject of high amusement in the days of peace. For such has ever been the avidity for something new

amongst the British politicians, from the days when the first gazettes were printed, down to the peace of 1815, that thousands of scribblers have lived upon their hourly invention, in fabricating and dishing up falsehoods to suit the national appetite; for a second or third course of something new, in the way of news.

Hence battles have been fought by armies which never met, ships of various nations engaged on the wide seas, which were safe in port. Victories announced, which were never gained, and defeats that were never sustained; whilst the avidity for swallowing these events spread the falsehoods far and wide, and groups of idle politicians were assembled east, west,

north and south, in arguing, condemning, exalting, and drawing conclusions, though cheated before a thousand times, by something new, as facts which they had heard with their own ears, or seen with their own eyes.

That paragon of wit and humour, George Selwyn, the delight of the *beau monde*, being invited, amongst other distinguished guests, to dine with my Lord Mayor, of the city of London, at a period when the whole country was on tiptoe for something new, on the failure of an expedition—The wit happened to be seated near the chief magistrate.

"Well Sir," addressing himself to Mr. Selwyn, "and pray, as you are a member

of parliament, and have the ear of the ministry—pray may I be so bold as to ask—why this expedition has failed?"

Selwyn, shrugged his shoulders, and looking significantly, though he knew no more of the cause than the "*man in the moon*," whispered my lord, "The soldiers and sailors went gallantly to storm the fortifications; but—all the scaling ladders were too short. "But," rejoined the wit—"this is a profound secret."

His lordship, who was as fond of a prime bit of news, almost, as of *Callipee* and *Callipash*, laid down his knife and fork, and exclaimed—"Only think! This is the way our wise governors do all things. This comes all of such a ministry! Sir,

we shall all be undone. Alas! poor old England."

"But this is all *sub rosa*, my lord—that is, under the rose."

"I am dumb, Sir," quoth the lord mayor—"It is sacred, Sir," putting his finger on his lip, and then a delicious spoonful of marrow pudding into his mouth.

The news, however, got into the papers. Some have declared through my lord mayor himself; but that may be a slander upon the posthumous fame of the chief magistrate. This, however, is certain, that half the politicians were all but up in arms against the ministry, for being so *short*-sighted, as not to have provided *longer* ladders. Now it happened, that

nither soldiers nor sailors disembarked, and the expedition only failed, because, upon mature counsel of admirals and generals, it was evident that the force at their disposal was totally incompetent to the enterprise.

Times of war, then, is the harvest season for fabricators of news, and that paper has the greatest number of readers, which cooks up these things with the greatest skill. Many a needy garreteer, whose pen has remained dormant in times of peace, is awaked from his ennui, has descended to the second floor, yea even to the first, on the *baseless fabric* of his political invention—And many a scribbler, whose optics never penetrate beyond the metropolitan smoke, writes corre-

spondence from every metropolis in the civilized world. Even the incarcerated scribbler, whose optic view is bounded by the *chevaux de freeze* of the King's Bench, or the Fleet, metamorphoses himself into a correspondent from Constantinople, or further still, from Coromandel in the east, to Canada in the west, and writes himself out of thraldom, by enthralling the world of politicians in disputations upon data, existing only in the cob-web net work of his own inventive brain.

We remember, about the period of the memorable battle of Leipzig, that it was customary for certain leading diurnal newspapers to publish second, third, and even fourth editions, in the same day, and the

rogues who circulated them, awoke all the children within and without the walls of the old city, in bawling and trumpetting them forth; when the eager politican, throwing up the sash, even with his night-cap on his head, whilst his wife was stepping into bed, has bid my Newsman stop, that he might get a fifth edition, with something new to dream upon, betwixt midnight and the morning *dejuné*.

One waggish editor, his employers being gone to their dormitories, determined to see how far this species of cupidity might be practised upon the gullibility of the metropolitan quidnuncs, actually issued a sixth edition, which was eagerly bought up on a Saturday night, as the whole army of Newsmen were out blow-

ing and bawling. Up flew the windows, even at the instance of the pious, who were saying their prayers; when many a peering eye looked for the important scrap; which found, the paper reeking wet, announced, WE STOP THE PRESS, TO ANNOUNCE, THAT NOTHING NEW HAS ARRIVED, SINCE OUR LAST EDITION. This *take in* enraged the readers on the eve of Sunday; but was forgotten in the something new of the Monday, and thus the press must thrive.

There is nothing in the vast scope of human ingenuity more stupendous for contemplation, than the perfection to which a daily newspaper is brought. When the pedant, in his overweening prejudices in favour of the mental superi-

ority of the ancients, talks with scorn of the moderns, let him consider this production, and he may blush for shame. The discovery of the art of printing alone is one of the mightiest of human discoveries; but when the whole machinery of this daily sheet is considered, it amounts almost, such is the combined effects of science, to a daily miracle.

What can be more astonishing, on comparing the helpless being man, in a state of nature, than to see the same being improved by civilization and science, capable of making an inanimate substance, that folds into the size of a letter, a slip of paper, covered with spots of ink, by the motion of a machine, worked by fire and water, spread information far

and wide, and communicate all the operations of nations, of individuals, of all that is daily doing, clearly to the perception of millions of fellow men, as though they were eye-witnesses of each other, as though indeed they possessed the immortal ubiquity attributed to the Gods? Yet this is done by the moderns; and it only does not astonish, because it is an operation daily performed, as regularly as the flux and reflux of the tides, or rising and setting of the sun.

Another branch of the service, entitled also Newsmen, is carried on by a noiseless but most industrious and useful fraternity. These people have little shops, or stalls, in every street, town, or village within the bills of mortality, who furnish

the neighbouring inhabitants with the daily morning papers for the breakfast table, and the evening whilst the politican is seated at the *dessert*. They either serve them to the opulent, who retain a paper to themselves, or lend them for an hour, from house to house, at two-pence per diem, or by the quarter, and receive them again from the last reader, in sufficient time to send them to the country by the stage-coaches, or the royal mail. So large are some districts, and so industrious are certain Newsmen, that the business of a well established news-walk has been sold for from five hundred to a thousand pounds. These petty establishments are of modern date, yet, when actively managed, they provide for some thousands of families in London

and its environs; and many thriving Newsmen have retired with a competency.

Foreigners, however, who are usually great observers of English manners, are much struck with the appearance of a Newsman's shop on the Sabbath; for, of late, the fronts of these are covered with immense placards, which, like the booths in fairs, exhibit on the outside, to poor gazers, gratuitously, an epitome of the drama within.

But what surprises the intelligent foreigner, or rather puzzles him, more, is the rivalry evinced amongst the publishers of these placards, who be it known are proprietors of the papers, as to who can post up the greatest roll of the woeful and wonderful.